Community supports Marianas Tourism Month 2024 cleanup & median painting. PAGE 2
2024 Liberation Day Queen candidates named. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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ADDRESSING CURRENT CRISIS CNMI FACES

San Nicolas: It's time for action

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

San Nicolas

The CNMI is currently facing a significant economic crisis due to the slow recovery of the CNMI's tourism industry. Addressing the CNMI's current economic state, Rep. Patrick H. San Nicholas (R-Tinian) is calling out to all CNMI leaders to take action.

Last week, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce held the 2nd annual Economic Forum where Chamber vice president Joshua Wise shared insight on the dire economic state the CNMI is currently in stating that the CNMI is in crisis.

Yesterday, in addressing the CNMI's current economic crisis, San Nicolas said the

See ACTION on Page 4

PAO gets $3.9M FEMA grant

» As of May 9, 2024, CNMI has received $134.2M in FEMA grants relating to COVID-19 pandemic

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sablan

The Public Assistance Office, under the Office of the Governor, received a $3.9-million grant from

See PAO on Page 4

French security forces work to regain control of airport highway in New Caledonia

AP

This handout photo provided by the French Army shows security force embarking a plane to New Caledonia at the Istres military base, southern France, on Thursday, May 16, 2024.

By JOHN LEICESTER
Associated Press

Using armored vehicles and backhoes to shove aside charred barricades, French security forces worked Sunday to retake control of the

See FRENCH on Page 4

Fire engulfs housing structures near DOC

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services said the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Housing structures were damaged after a fire went out of control near the Department of Corrections in Susupe last Saturday night.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
ORRESPONDENT

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services successfully quelled a trash fire that engulfed housing structures along Texas Road near the Department of Corrections in Susupe late Saturday night.

Despite the intensity of the blaze, all 14 individuals residing in the housing

See FIRE on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS

David Beaver & Associates of Raymond James announced that Investment Portfolio associate Brianna T. Tabilas received the Certified Investment Management Analyst designation.

PAGE 10

WORLD

The chief prosecutor of the world's top war crimes court sought arrest warrants Monday for leaders of Israel and Hamas, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, over actions taken during their seven-month war.

PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE

If you catch the latest Garfield movie, you might not expect to find the famous orange feline at one point running from bad guys on the top of a speeding train. Lasagna eating? Sure. But any sort of cardio?

PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Community supports Marianas Tourism Month 2024 cleanup & median painting

MVA

Twenty students of Sinapalo Elementary School on Rota participate in the Marianas Tourism Month cleanup on May 18, 2024, cleaning from Guata Beach to Teteto Beach on "Nature's Treasure Island."

MVA

The roadside of "Nature's Treasure Island" gets a touch-up by students of Sinapalo Elementary School on Rota as part of the Marianas Tourism Month cleanup on May 18, 2024.

Community members of the Marianas are turning out full force this month with beautification efforts in support of Marianas Tourism Month.

Island Keepers, Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Islands, Japan Saipan Travel Association, Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association, and Petlas cultural dancers joined the Marianas Visitors Authority at Paseo de Marianas in the Garapan tourist district early last Saturday, May 18, sweeping the entire area for trash. The cleanup ended with over 250 lbs. of trash, debris, bottles and other items collected.

At the same time, students of the MY WAVE Clubs of Dandan Middle School, Admiral Hopwood Middle School, Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Da'ok Academy volunteered alongside the Department of Public Works to paint curbs and medians in the tourist district.

"We volunteered to help out our community and fix up our islands...for us and our visitors, as well," said Dandan Middle School MY WAVE Club Secretary Charmylle Reyes.

Fifty-two MY WAVE Club members donned bright yellow shirts from the MVA and participated in the beautification project from 7:30am to 11am.

"We hope the students will understand the benefits of community assistance and making sure the island looks good for both our tourists and ourselves," said MY WAVE Club advisor Judith Castro.

See CLEANUP on Page 3

MVA

From left, MY WAVE Club member Hudson Igisomar and club secretary Charmylle Reyes of Dandan Middle School participate in the Marianas Tourism Month cleanup on May 18, 2024, by painting curbs in downtown Garapan.

3 Saipan students named to SNHU Winter 2024 President's List

MANCHESTER, NH—It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University congratulates the following students from Saipan on being named to the Winter 2024 President's List. The winter terms run from January to May.

- Renedel Christian Buno
- Grace Nekaifes
- Lela Sanchez

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

SNHU is a private, nonprofit institution with an 91-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 225,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as the "Most Innovative" regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu. ***(PR)***

CLEANUP

From page 2

"Participating in the painting initiative as part of Tourism Month was something different and was so worthwhile to give back to our community," added MY WAVE Club advisor Monica Pangelinan.

On Rota, 20 students of Sinapalo Elementary School conducted a cleanup from Guata Beach to Teteto Beach. Participating students represented the school MY WAVE and YAP Clubs.

"As Gilita—people of Rota—we are proud of our beautiful island, and it's great to partner with the students to show that pride and support tourism at the same time during Marianas Tourism Month," said Rota Field Operations supervisor David Atalig.

Several hotels under the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands also conducted cleanups at Pakpak Beach and Micro Beach on Saipan last May 20 along with schoolchildren.

"A big si *Yu'use ma'ase, olomwaay*, and thank you to the students, our industry partners, and other community volunteers for being a part of making the Marianas a premiere destination for our visitors and a more beautiful place to live," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

Other ongoing activities for Marianas Tourism Month are the Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival, tourism trivia with prizes on participating radio stations, and the #CaptureTheBeautyofTheMarianas photo contest on Facebook and Instagram. ***(PR)***

MVA

Thirty-six industry workers and community volunteers participate in the Marianas Tourism Month cleanup at Paseo de Marianas on May 18, 2024, collecting about 250 lbs. of trash in downtown Garapan.

MVA

From left, MY WAVE Club members Quiara Sanchez and Aldyann Igisaiar and club advisor Judith Castro of Dandan Middle School participate in the Marianas Tourism Month cleanup on May 18, 2024, by painting curbs in downtown Garapan.

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ACCOUNTANT

Delta Management Corporation, which operates 5 Shell Branded Gas Stations and Convenience Stores is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Accountant. Successful applicants will act as the main point of contact between the company and vendors, partners and other external parties, ensuring smooth communication and coordination. Must be proficient with QuickBooks, NAV, Microsoft Excel and Word programs and be flexible, adaptable and work in a fast-paced environment.

The successful candidate must be organized, trustworthy, able to work on a team and have a great attitude.

- Demonstrate understanding of accounting controls and principles.
- Review financial statements for accuracy and compliance.
- Generate weekly cash position reports.
- Responsible for accurately reviewing payroll data and entering it into QuickBooks.
- Responsible for accurate auditing of daily sales reports for service stations
- Responsible for monthly sales summary reports and fuel reconciliation.
- Review and provide deposit reconciliation and create cash flow projections.
- Adhere to and meet reporting deadlines.
- Prepare Monthly BGRT reports and other tax and compliance reports.
- Must have thorough analytical skills for the reconciliation of fleet cards and credit card transactions.

On-island reference & police clearance required.

E-mail resume to: islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com

Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Title Position: Front Office Manager

Key Responsibilities:
- Customer Service: Greet and welcome visitors and clients in a professional and friendly manner.
- Communication: Answer, screen, and forward incoming phone calls. Take accurate messages when necessary.
- Administration: Maintain the reception area, keeping it clean and organized. Manage the scheduling and coordination of meetings and appointments.
- Clerical Support: Perform a variety of clerical duties including data entry, filing, and managing correspondence.
- Coordination: Assist with administrative tasks and provide support to other departments as needed.
- Mail Handling: Sort and distribute mail and packages. Prepare outgoing mail and courier services.
- Security: Monitor visitor access and maintain security protocols.
- Business Administration: Register businesses and securing licenses in CNMI. Prepare and file BGRT as well as doing payroll for CNMI employees.

Qualifications:
- Highschool graduate
- Proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel
- Familiar with getting businesses registered and licensed in the CNMI.
- Familiar with BGRT returns is a plus but not required.
- Experienced in preparing payroll for CNMI employees is a plus but not required.
- Bookkeeping experience is a plus but not required.

Position(s): One (1)

Job Site: Saipan, CNMI

Opening Date: May 20, 2024

Closing Date: May 31, 2024

Salary is commensurate with experience.

How to apply: Submit a professional resume to:

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Office Address: 1930 Picarro Ln I Liyang Village, Saipan MP 96950

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ANTONIO SN. BORJA, Chairman — JAMES M. MENDIOLA, Vice Chairman — HENRY H. SAN NICOLAS, Member
DONALD M. HOFSCHNEIDER, Member — CHARLENE M. LIZAMA, Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting, on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
  1. April 16, 2024 – Regular Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[1]

III. REPORTS
- a. Chair's Report
- b. Executive Director's Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- a. Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino
- b. Saint Trading Company, Inc.

V. NEW BUSINESS
- a. Consulting Agreement - Amerine Gaming Enterprises
- b. ED Recommendation No. 2024-05
- c. ED Recommendation No. 2024-05.CSI.CSI(e)
- c. Prophet Manpower Services

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]

VII. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

[1] *Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.*
[2] *Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.*

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2024 Liberation Day Queen candidates named

CHRYSTAL MARINO

2024 Liberation Day Queen candidates Nakisha Celis, Xeayda Manglona, and Chariane Dabney pose for a photo with this year's Liberation Day Committee and 2019 Liberation Day Queen Pernalynn Borja Camacho last Friday at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Susupe.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The 2024 Liberation Day Committee has named Nakisha Celis, Chariane Dabney, and Xeayda Manglona as the candidates for this year's Liberation Day Queen and Royal Court competition.

Celis, Dabney, and Manglona were presented to the public at the Saipan Mayor's Office last Friday.

Celis, 17, is a resident of Saipan and student at the Saipan Southern High School.

"I want to be able to experience it as it's my first time. I also want to get out of my comfort zone. Knowing that there's only three of us, I also want to encourage others to join."

She shared that through the experience she'd like to also get other young people interested and excited to join the Liberation Day Royal Court and help the community in any way they can.

An early graduate of Kagman High School, Dabney expressed not only her excitement to be part of the Class of 2024, but to also be a part of the Liberation Day Queen and Royal Court competition.

"Joining the Liberation Day Queen tilt, I really thought it would be a great experience for the future, knowing that I am interested in participating in the Miss CNMI or Miss Marianas one day." Her message: show kindness.

For 19-year-old Manglona, she just wants to represent her hometown.

"I'm a proud daughter of the island of Luta. For me, it's really all about representing my island. I'm the only candidate representing Rota right now and it's kind of sad to see. I know a lot of the younger generation back home, they think we can't really participate or do the same as like Saipan or Guam, just because we're such a small island and our opportunities are more limited. I really want to change that stigma and take it one step at a time, especially through this competition."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CHRYSTAL MARINO

2024 Liberation Day Queen candidates Nakisha Celis, Xeayda Manglona, and Chariane Dabney smile for a photo last Friday at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Susupe.

FRENCH

From page 1

highway to the international airport in violence-scorched New Caledonia, shuttered because of deadly unrest wracking the French Pacific archipelago where indigenous people have long sought independence from France.

An eventual reopening of the Nouméa-La Tontouta airport to commercial flights could allow stranded tourists to escape the island where armed clashes, arson, looting and other mayhem have prompted France to impose a state of emergency. The airport, with routes to Australia, Singapore, New Zealand and other destinations, closed Tuesday as protests against voting reforms opposed by pro-independence supporters degenerated into widespread violence, leaving a vast trail of destruction.

French Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin, posting on social media platform X, said the "major operation" was "aimed at fully regaining control" of the RT1 highway between the capital, Nouméa, and the airport 60 kilometers (nearly 40 miles) to the northwest. He said more than 600 gendarmes were deployed. The number spoke to the difficulty of clearing roads of charred debris and barricades erected by pro-independence demonstrators and residents who have banded together to try to protect homes and livelihoods against rioters and looters.

The police effort to reopen the airport road cleared nearly 60 barricades on its first day, French authorities in New Caledonia' posted on X.

The French High Commission, in a statement, described the night of Saturday to Sunday as "calmer" but still spoke of two blazes and the looting of a gas station, without giving details. A 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew is in effect and security forces have been granted emergency powers, including house detention for people deemed a threat to public order and expanded leeway to conduct searches, seize weapons and restrict movements, with possible jail time for violators.

The High Commission also said 230 people it described as rioters have been detained.

Nouméa's mayor, Sonia Lagarde, told French broadcaster BFMTV on Sunday that fully clearing the airport road could take "days and days" because of "an enormous amount of burned carcasses of cars."

"The situation is still dramatic," she said.

Gen. Nicolas Matthéos, head of the archipelago's public order force of gendarmes, said some barricades had been booby-trapped with gas canisters and reinforced with "walls of vehicles."

PAO

From page 1

the Federal Emergency Management Agency last Thursday, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) over the weekend.

Sablan disclosed in his *e-kilili* newsletter that the $3,981,140 grant covers statement management costs over the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said as of May 9, 2024, the CNMI has received $134.2 million in FEMA grants relating to the pandemic.

Homeland Security/Emergency Management received $113,653,048; Commonwealth government (lost wages program) $7,721,288; Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. $6,892,353; Office of the Governor $5,910,997; and Funeral Assistance Applicants $87,531.

FIRE

From page 1

structures were safely evacuated, with no reported injuries or fatalities.

According to DFEMS, they received a call about the fire around 10:19pm, and issued out multiple units to respond to the site.

Arriving at the scene at 10:23pm, Rescue-1 conducted a thorough assessment reporting a trash fire and said flames were dangerously close to both the housing structures and nearby vehicles. The point of origin of the fire was determined to be the northside of the buildings which used to be a small shed and part of an auto shop.

DFEMS said within minutes of Rescue-1's arrival the fire escalated and engulfed the structures. Rescue personnel immediately evacuated nearby residents to safety, while off-duty firefighters from Alpha Shift joined forces to contain the blaze.

Under the leadership of Bravo Shift commander, Capt. J.C. Camacho, the main fire was brought under control by 1:08am, marking the beginning of the mop-up phase. By 2:07am, the fire was fully contained and extinguished.

Fire investigator Lamarc Iguel shed light on the incident, "With multiple fuel loads, the fire was able to spread quickly toward the southern side of the structure. Minor soot damage was found on adjacent structures on the southern side, and the suppression operation was able to control the fire's exposure and contain it in one area."

He added that the eastern side of the housing structures suffered roof collapses as a result of the inferno.

"Based on scene investigations and interview statements, the area of the origin was located on the northeast side of the property."

As of now, the cause of the fire remains under investigation by the Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation, with a determination expected at a later date.

ACTION

From page 1

CNMI now, more than ever, needs bold leadership and decisive actions to address the crisis.

"It's time for action not just words. The CNMI economy is facing significant challenges, and we need bold leadership and decisive actions to address them. As a lone representative from the island of Tinian, I am committed to working toward solutions that will stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and improve the livelihood of our people," he said.

San Nicolas shared that CNMI leaders, like himself, must invest in key sectors, support innovation and entrepreneurship, and promote fair trade policies.

"Let us put aside partisan differences and work together to pass meaningful legislation that will revitalize the CNMI economy, the time for talk is over; it's time for action. Let us rise to the challenge and build a brighter economic future for our people. We are chosen amongst the people by the people to represent them in good faith, I stand for the people and not for an individual," he said.

San Nicolas also noted that the hospitality industry, particularly major hotels, are facing significant challenges and need help.

"From Super Typhoon Yutu to the pandemic, [these events have] severely impacted tourism and travel leading to substantial decline in bookings and revenue. We need targeted support to help these businesses stay afloat," he said.

San Nicolas adds that leaders of the Commonwealth must come together to address and identify the specific needs of the CNMI's hotels and act swiftly to prevent further job losses and ensure long term viability of these vital economic drivers.

"These industries have a ripple effect that benefits not only the employees but also the wider community. When major hotels thrive, they create jobs, stimulate local economic growth and contribute to the overall vitality of the islands and the people. This in turn will benefit visitors and tourists who come to enjoy the island's unique attractions. By supporting the hospitality [industry], we are investing in the well-being of the people, fostering economic resilience and that our region remains a vibrant and attractive place to live, work and visit and let us recognize the far-reaching impact of our actions and work together to create a thriving economy that benefits everyone," he said.

In his presentation during the 2nd annual Economic Forum last week, Wise explains that fiscal year 2017 was the last year the CNMI was on track for a healthy and sustainable tourism industry.

"We were recognized by the World Tourism Organization as the third fastest growing tourism destination in the world. We had over 663,000 visitors, and the fourth highest fiscal year arrivals in history. We achieved this with nearly 5,600 flights from three major markets," he said.

Wise adds that as of this year and last, the CNMI is far from 2017 numbers.

"Last year, we reached just over 215,000 arrivals. We are forecasted about 300,000 arrivals this year. That's absolutely not enough. We need at least 500,000 arrivals to break even. This forecast is a 54% loss compared to arrivals in 2017. Hotel occupancy also follows arrivals. We went from 90.89% in 2017 to 37.63% in 2023. Hotel occupancy of 80% is what hotels need to make a profit but 70% is what we need just breakeven. So, at 37% occupancy, which takes into account only HANMI members, is a massive loss. When we take into account the entire island's room inventory from non-HANMI members like guest houses, AirBnbs, our best occupancy we can achieve is just over 25%. This is an over 71% loss compared to our occupancy in 2017," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Radewagen speaks to RPIL rising Pacific leaders

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) took part in the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders roundtable with Congressman Ed Case.

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) recently took part in a roundtable with 23 rising leaders representing 18 countries from the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders.

"I appreciated the invite to be among several Members of Congress to speak to the Resilient Pacific Islands Leaders (RPIL) last week," said Radewagen. "Thank you especially to the East-West Center. This U.S.-funded program they hosted is one element of much broader U.S. efforts to be energetically committed as a Pacific region country."

The event at the East-West Center in Washington, D.C. is part of the Center's Pacific Islands Development Program. Discussion of the region and best practices for working together spanned topics including diplomacy, security, prosperity, environment, education and more.

The RPIL group was taking part in a six-week certificate program that concluded this week. Their curriculum centered on the 2050 strategies for a Blue Pacific with a theme of Partnerships.

Others that joined them for remarks or to take questions throughout the event included Senator Brian Schatz; Congressman Ed Case; Congresswoman Young Kim; DOI assistant secretary Carmen Cantor, and deputy assistant secretary Keone Nakoa; ambassadors Hersey Kyota, Palau Embassy Washington, D.C.; and Charles Paul, RMI Embassy in Washington, D.C.; deputy chief of mission Jackson Soram, Federated States of Micronesia; Dr. James Viernes, PIDP and Paki Ormsby, Aotearoa, New Zealand. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) discusses Pacific issues with RPIL rising leaders.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP24-CHCC/WIC-014
(REANNOUNCEMENT)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 7TH, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – BANGLADESHI INTERPRETER

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Name: Mary Antoinette Demapan
Address: P.O. Box 8136 SVRB
Phone: (670) 788-6240
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of	:	FCD-GU CIVIL
the Petition for the	:	ACTION NO.
Appointment	:	24-0128
of General	:	
Guardianship for:	:	
	:	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
L.A.K.A.G &	:	
L.L.S.A.G.	:	
Minor Child(ren)	:	
	:	
By:	:	
	:	
Mary Antoinette	:	
Demapan	:	
Petitioner(s)	:	
_____	:	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 8th day of April, 2024

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/_____
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-24
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 22, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"AIRPORT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES LANDSIDE PROPERTY"

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 19, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "AIRPORT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES LANDSIDE PROPERTY (RFP-007-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 22, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-016

Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the replacement of the waterline at Sihek Dr. in Capital Hill and Tangan-Tangan Dr. in Papago with the installation of new 6-inch PVC distribution main including appurtenances, valves, fittings, fire hydrants, air relief valves, flush hydrants, pressure-reducing valve, and reconnection and relocation of existing service laterals to the right-of-way. The project also includes the construction of the waterline replacement along Kailing Dr. in Dandan. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **May 14, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-24-016, Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 4, 2024,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of *fifteen percent (15%)* of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.
This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 21, 2024,** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer via email at alley.reyes@cucgov.org also to Mr. Mark Liban via email at mark.liban@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

SUPREME COURT
THE JUDICIARY
REPUBLIC OF PALAU
P.O. Box 248 Koror, Palau 96940
Telephone: Koror : (680) 488-2607/4979/3331 or
Capitol: (680) 767-2330/2482/2607 • Facsimile: Koror (680) 488-1597 or
Capitol: (680) 767-2606
E-mail address: judiciary@palausupremecourt.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Trial Division of the Palau Supreme Court is currently scheduling hearings on pending land claims in Ngarchelong, Palau. The cases with pending claims are as follows:

Civil Action No. 23-114
Civil Action No. 23-120
Civil Action No. 23-115
Civil Action No. 23-121
Civil Action No. 23-116
Civil Action No. 23-122
Civil Action No. 23-117
Civil Action No. 23-123
Civil Action No. 23-118
Civil Action No. 23-124
Civil Action No. 23-119

The following individuals are listed as Claimants:

- **Susana Flores Delos Reyes aka Susana Delos Reyes Mendiola**
- **Lawrence J. Aflague, Jr.**
- **Eugenia Flores James aka Eugenia James Aflague**
- **Gabriel Borja**
- **Frank Flores**
- **Frederica Flores Santos**
- **Maccarthy John Borja**
- **Atanacio Borja**
- **Pedro Tudela Borja, Jr.**
- **Teresa D. Laguana**

These Claimants or their children, heirs, descendants, or other authorized representatives are requested to contact the Clerk of Courts to update their contact information. This is necessary to facilitate calendaring of hearings and addressing any logistical arrangements, such as attending hearings virtually through remote court proceedings if they are unable to attend in person.

Allison Idip Sengebau
Palau Supreme Court
P.O. Box 248
Koror, Palau 96940
Tel: (680)488-2607
Mobile: (680) 775-4914
asengebau@palausupremecourt.net

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Democrats' bribery cases in Congress call for self-examination

No political party ever wants to get caught in a corruption scandal, particularly one flavored by betrayal of domestic interests for foreign gain. Here comes the Democratic Party with two scandals, and in a presidential election year.

The first has to do with U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey, whose bribery trial started this week. The second one involves U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar of Texas, who was indicted earlier this month on federal charges of bribery and money laundering.

Each man deserves to have his day in court, and both dispute the charges. Several Democrats have called on Menendez to resign, though Cuellar's indictment has largely been met with silence. Democrats shouldn't treat these credible allegations as headlines to be lamented and then forgotten. The party that has decried Russian interference in our democracy and ethical failures by Republicans should reflect on behaviors in its own house that may have invited unscrupulousness.

It will accrue to Democrats' favor to vociferously denounce all corruption, not just the kind that makes the other party look bad.

The sprawling Menendez corruption case is eye-opening. Federal prosecutors say the senator and his wife accepted bribes in exchange for Menendez using the power of his office to aid Egyptian and Qatari officials, an Egyptian American entrepreneur and a New Jersey businessmen. A 39-page indictment alleges that Menendez tried to interfere with fraud investigations, disclosed nonpublic and "highly sensitive" State Department information to help the Egyptian government and pressured a U.S. official to protect a halal meat monopoly.

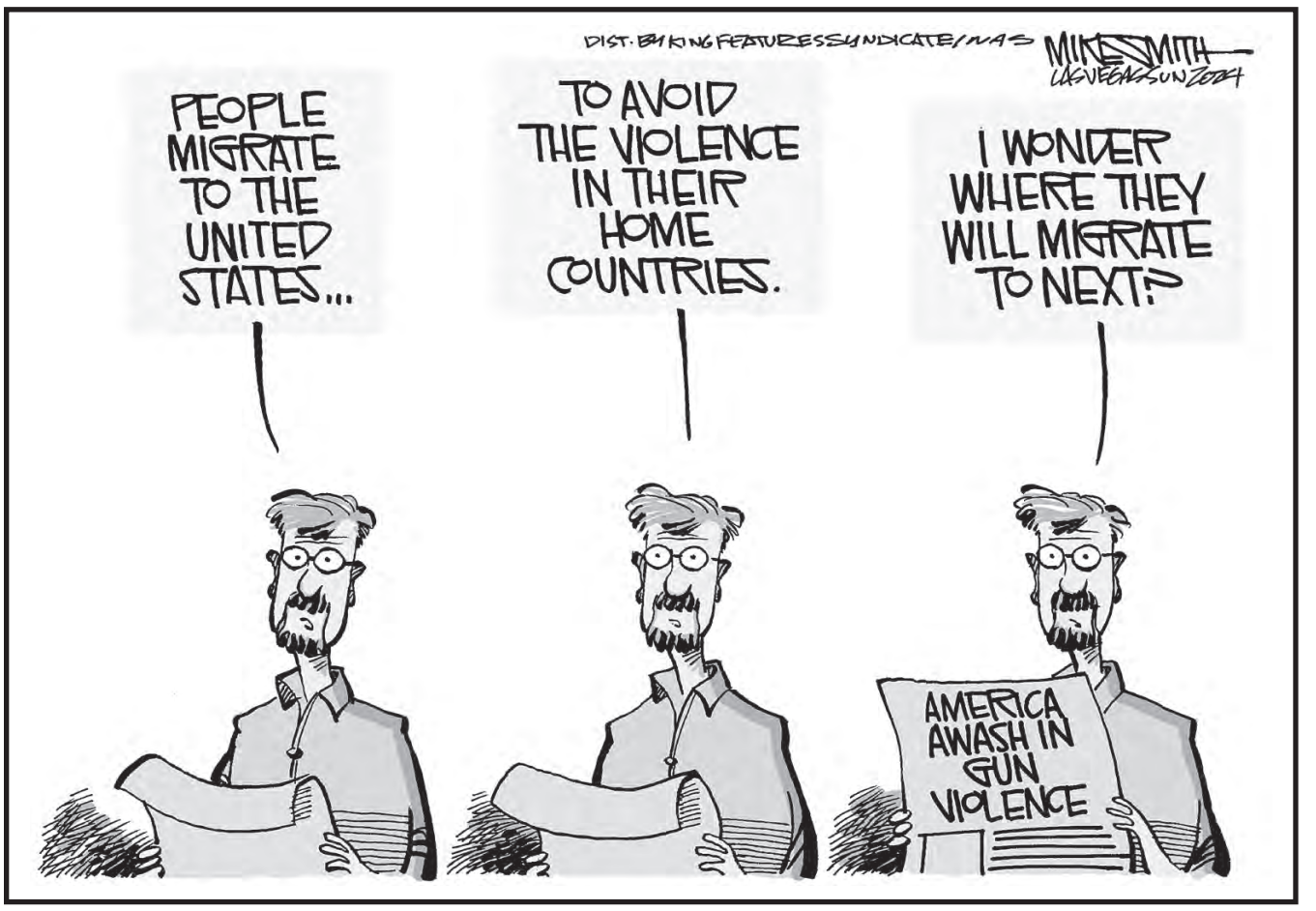
In exchange for all these political favors, Menendez and his wife were showered with gifts ranging from gold bars to mortgage payments and car payments for a Mercedes-Benz, the indictment alleges. The New York Times reported that part of the senator's defense is to blame his wife for withholding information and misleading him.

That's rich. Menendez, a septuagenarian, has been in public office since the 1970s, and it's on him to manage his finances responsibly and ethically. If you are letting someone other than your family help you pay for a house or a luxury car, then you shouldn't be in public office.

The federal indictment against Cuellar and his wife alleges that he used his political influence to shape U.S. policy in favor of Azerbaijan's state-run oil company and to advocate for slackening American anti-money laundering rules to help a Mexican bank. Prosecutors accuse the Cuellars of taking bribes disguised as consulting payments for Cuellar's wife. The couple has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The behavior outlined in the indictments is plainly illegal, but it would be a mistake to think of the charges, if corroborated in court, as mere failures of individual moral character. Loose campaign finance rules contribute to a toxic environment where public servants of all political leanings become

See BRIBERY on Page 7


DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS
MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2024
PEOPLE MIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES...
TO AVOID THE VIOLENCE IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES.
I WONDER WHERE THEY WILL MIGRATE TO NEXT?
AMERICA AWASH IN GUN VIOLENCE

Netanyahu moves toward military reoccupation of Gaza with no exit strategy

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Watching Benjamin Netanyahu blunder into Rafah with no plan for "the day after" is like watching a Greek tragedy whose end is foreseen but can no longer be blocked.

Netanyahu's push into the city at Gaza's southern edge—with no strategy for an endgame—will force Israeli troops to reoccupy the entire strip. It will ensure Hamas' political and military survival, and trap Israeli troops in an unending insurgency.

It will probably doom most of the remaining Israeli hostages. It may also doom thousands more Palestinian civilians, including children.

Worst of all, it will hand both Hamas terrorists and Israeli extremists a devastating win that will continue to wreak havoc on the Palestinian people and on the Jewish state.

Netanyahu's focus on total victory over Hamas blindly mistakes the Gaza war for a conventional 20th-century land war that can be ended solely by military means. He falsely compares Israel to the Allied forces that defeated Adolf Hitler in World War II.

Supposed allies of Israel such as GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham encourage Netanyahu's delusions when they cite the nuclear strikes on Hiroshima and Nagasaki as a template for bombing Gaza. Not only is such talk morally repugnant, but it shows zero grasp of how to defeat Hamas.

President Joe Biden was absolutely correct to ban a shipment of 2,000-pound bombs that can wipe out whole neighborhoods in pursuit of a single Hamas commander. Such actions only increase support for Hamas globally and in the Arab world (even in moderate Arab states whose leaders despise Hamas).

The Gaza war is a nontraditional struggle with an unconventional force—Hamas—that is fighting a guerilla war from underground tunnels. The civilian population of two million is trapped in a territory no bigger than Philadelphia, with no possibility to escape. Yes, Hamas uses civilians as a shield, but Israel's indifference to civilian casualties plays into the terror group's hands.

The proper military comparison for the Gaza war is the situation the United States faced in Afghanistan after 9/11—or what Israel faced in Lebanon after 1983. Both countries got mired for years in trying to defeat an insurgency. In both cases, the military alone couldn't win because there was no concurrent political strategy to isolate the Islamist militias. Continued military attacks further alienated civilians.

Smashing into Rafah, to which half the Gazan population has fled, won't destroy Hamas—many of its leaders and fighters will survive in tunnels or houses, blend into the remaining population, or even escape to Sinai. Israeli bombs will doom many of the hostages who are still alive.

After tens of thousands more Palestinian civilian deaths, even Gazans angered at Hamas for their plight will adopt its ideology of a one-state Palestinian solution minus Israel. A continued insurgency will bubble under the surface and expand into the West Bank.

Israel will be trapped in Gaza, endlessly trying to crush insurgents.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant gets it. He has publicly protested his government's lack of a Gaza endgame, telling a news conference last week that he wouldn't allow the establishment of military rule in the Gaza Strip.

"(Netanyahu's) not taking a decision on a 'day after strategy' is tantamount to a dangerous decision to install Israeli military and civil rule in the Gaza Strip," Gallant said.

"The end of the military campaign must be a political act," he warned. "The day after Hamas will only be achieved through the rule of Palestinian elements that form an alternative to Hamas. Above all, this is an Israeli interest. Unfortunately, no such plan has been brought for debate."

In other words, the only way to doom Hamas is to provide Palestinians with an alternative option that separates civilians from Hamas fighters. That would leave Hamas politically and physically exposed.

The Biden administration, along with moderate Gulf Arab states, has put forward the only plausible alternative: plans that would involve a possible Arab peacekeeping force, along with Arab and international funding to rebuild from Israeli bombing.

But such plans were contingent on two steps by Israel—the first being putting a stop to the reckless killing of civilians.

Had Netanyahu thought strategically, he would have made every effort to establish real safe zones for civilians with water and sanitation that would have separated noncombatants from fighters. This strategy would have given Israel more time and more leeway to destroy Hamas terrorists in tunnels and aboveground.

Instead, Israel let vengeance rule, bombing indiscriminately

See NETANYAHU on Page 7

We're taking ranked-choice voting national for presidential elections

By ROB RICHIE
The Fulcrum

Rob Richie is senior adviser and co-founder of FairVote, a nonpartisan electoral reform organization.

Imagine it's election night 2024. A few close swing states will decide the presidency—and test the health of our democracy. In that scenario, we can be certain of two facts: Neither Joe Biden nor Donald Trump will win a majority of the vote, and votes for independent and third-party candidates will dwarf the final margin.

Dissatisfied voters regularly peel off to insurgents like John Anderson in 1980, Ross Perot in 1992, Ralph Nader in 2000, and Jill Stein and Gary Johnson in 2016. With Robert Kennedy polling in double-digits, and Libertarians, Greens and Cornel West to appear on many state ballots, there's a whole shadow campaign emerging. Democrats are spending millions against these candidates, while Republicans are eying whether they can repeat the 2016 playbook — in which Trump flipped the decisive states of Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin with an average vote share of less than 48%.

There's a proven solution to the "spoiler" problem readymade for American politics: ranked-choice voting. Australia has an average of more than five candidates in its RCV elections without any "spoiler" talk. Maine and Alaska already will use RCV for president this year. If all states had RCV, there would be no worries that a third-party candidate could tip a state—and thus the White House—against popular will.

Instead of indicating a single choice, RCV voters get to rank the candidates first, second and so on. If no one wins by securing more than half of first choices, the trailing finishers are eliminated and ballots for those candidates count for their next choice. The final "instant runoff" between the top two candidates ensures a representative outcome without the costs and burdens of a December runoff election.

Alaska adopted RCV for presidential elections in 2020 and Maine after legislative action in 2019. But why have 48 states not passed RCV—particularly the seven swing states that will decide this November's election? Why are the collective decisions of voters unwilling to settle on the "lesser of two evils" a bigger wildcard than Trump's criminal trials and Biden's age?

To be sure, change is happening; 50 American cities and hundreds of NGOs use RCV, with generally strong support for it in exit polls. RCV has won 27 consecutive city ballot measures, and four states and D.C. may vote on adopting RCV statewide this November. It's been a clue on "Jeopardy!" and in national crossword puzzles.

A few proven approaches will help scale RCV faster. Perfection is illusory, but we should never settle for less. Voters of all backgrounds easily rank things every day, and all jurisdictions should use well-designed ballots and tested voter education models to allow them to do that in RCV elections. RCV results should be as fast, transparent and auditable as non-RCV ones. States should buy voting equipment that makes RCV as easy to use as flipping a switch.

These changes are coming. Many cities release preliminary RCV tallies on election night and embrace best practices on transparency, audits and timely data releases. Now that all modern voting equipment can run RCV elections (a real concern for cities looking to adopt RCV in the 1990s and 2000s), policymakers are aligning on standards to enable vendors to offer RCV as a default option. More jurisdictions are investing in good ballot design, intuitive results displays and voter education.

Effectively ending the presidential spoiler problem by 2028 is within reach by focusing on the swing states that decide the White House. RCV is already on the ballot this November in Nevada, and active movements in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are pushing for change.

With Americans fundamentally restless with their ballot choices, the spoiler problem can't be wished away. It's time to take RCV national to accommodate voter choices and reward our leaders for seeking to represent a majority of Americans.

NETANYAHU

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and blocking aid. After the horrors of Hamas' Oct. 7 rampage, this may be understandable from an emotional standpoint, but was strategically stupid and morally ugly. Even today, after Israel has closed almost all entry points of humanitarian aid to Gaza, Netanyahu permits followers of his right-wing political allies to block the few food shipments still headed there via Israeli roads.

Second, the Biden plan is contingent on Israel facilitating the return to Gaza of rule by a rejuvenated Palestinian Authority, or PA, the governing body that exercises partial control over the West Bank. The PA's return depends, in turn, on Israel endorsing a political path forward toward the end of occupation, a path that ultimately would lead to a two-state solution.

Yet, Netanyahu has vehemently opposed any role for the PA. He has fantasized that apolitical Palestinians or tribal leaders will somehow emerge to run daily life in Gaza, and Israeli forces will continue to police Gaza, which will be "demilitarized" and "de-radicalized."

That is a pipe dream, as Hamas will survive in the wings, and no tribal leaders will help Israel maintain a military occupation. Moreover, with most of Gaza's housing destroyed or broken, the majority of Palestinians will be living in rubble, unable to function or feed themselves.

Israel will be left ruling over the ruins. Moderate Arab states will not finance the rebuilding of the strip if the war there continues; no international force will police those ruins.

Continued Israeli military occupation of Gaza will seriously undermine Israel's peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan, and prevent any future normalization with Saudi Arabia. It will alienate large segments of the public in Europe and the United States, and make the country an international pariah.

It will undercut one of Israel's closest friends ever, who tried and failed to force Israel's leaders to face reality: President Biden.

It may be too late to reverse Netanyahu's self-defeating course, even with more U.S. pressure. Yet, the road he has chosen—in order to retain power and avoid jail time for corruption—will keep Hamas alive and intimidate any nascent opposition. It will cause too many more Israelis and Palestinians to die.

BRIBERY

From page 7

enamored with the trappings of wealth, seduced by junkets and extravagant gifts and parties thrown by their donor friends or ideological allies.

All of this gray may happen within the margins of the law, but it tempts officials to cross red lines.

If Democrats want the moral high ground, they'll take stock of what they have been willing to tolerate and raise the bar for their own.

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The Supreme Court just handed another loss to Congress

By STEPHEN L. CARTER
Bloomberg Opinion

Stephen L. Carter is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, a professor of law at Yale University and author of "Invisible: The Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster."

We ought to be left a tad uneasy by Thursday's 7-2 Supreme Court decision upholding the mechanism for funding the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The result isn't wrong, and should even have been expected; but the implicit invitation to Congress to repeat the strange budgetary experiment ... well, that's the worrisome part.

The CFPB was created in 2010 as part of Dodd-Frank, which granted the new agency broad authority over consumer finance, including enforcement of a new statute making it illegal for lenders "to engage in any unfair, deceptive, or abusive act or practice." All quite sensible.

But controversy arose at once, centering around two unusual aspects of the agency. First, Dodd-Frank placed the CFPB under a single director, but also protected that director against presidential removal, a combination struck down by the Supreme Court in 2020. Second, the statute exempted the agency from the usual federal budget process. In fact, the agency need not go through Congress for money at all. Instead, the CFPB gets its cash by drawing from the Federal Reserve the amount the director deems "reasonably necessary to carry out" the agency's work, subject to a cap set at an inflation-adjusted 12% of the Federal Reserve's 2009 operating expenses.

Within these rules, the CFPB cannot be gainsaid by anyone—not Congress, the Fed or the president. That was the heart of the issue before the justices in Consumer Financial Protection Bureau v. Community Financial Services Association of America.

The case arose from a challenge by various lenders to a 2017 CFPB rule restricting high-interest consumer loans.(1) In 2022, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit struck down the CFPB's funding mechanism, holding that Congress had not complied with the Constitution's requirement that "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law."

The Supreme Court disagreed. Justice Clarence Thomas's majority opinion spends most of its words tracing the history of the appropriations process as a means to control government. Based on that exercise, the majority finds that the CFPB's funding mechanism fits within models stretching back to the fabled First Congress. Therefore, the statute conforms to the Appropriations Clause.

So why worry?

The dissent by Justice Samuel Alito, joined by Justice Neil Gorsuch, mostly concerns itself with the same history, although Alito reads the key clause differently: "Its aim is to ensure that the people's elected representatives monitor and control the expenditure of public funds and the projects they finance, and it imposes on Congress an important duty that it cannot sign away."

This unwaivable duty, the dissent argues, is violated by what it labels the "novel scheme" through which the CFPB is funded. The many other agencies that draw on special funding for their budgetary needs—including the Postal Service, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board—"are funded in whole or in part by fees charged those who make use of their services or are subject to their regulation."

Why should this matter? The fear seems to be that with so unprecedented a lack of checks and balances, there's no one to stop the agency from going on an uncontrollable regulation spree. The dissent offers examples, such as recent efforts by the CFPB to limit credit card late fees, or remove medical bills from credit reports, neither of which Congress has authorized. Whether these are good ideas or not, writes Alito, "Congress cannot control or monitor the CFPB's use of funds to implement such changes."

That's a fair concern, but like so much in our broken government, it's one that stems from Congress itself. The Senate and the House of Representatives, in establishing the agency, chose to go even further than usual in abandoning their work of making policy decisions. Of course we should be worried about this legislative dysfunction.

Yet the court's majority is correct that the complaint is, at its heart, a political one. As such, the place to hash it out is Congress itself.

Nevertheless, the dissent is right in worrying about the floodgates. We live in an era when neither major political party seems much interested in the pursuit of regulatory restraint. Just consider, from a long list, the right's new-found enthusiasm for imposing rules on campus and the left's determination to upend labor-management relations.

It's not at all crazy to imagine, with the CFPB's funding method having found its way through the storm to constitutional safe harbor, some future Congress deciding that what the nation needs is more agencies with budgets that are beyond legislative control.

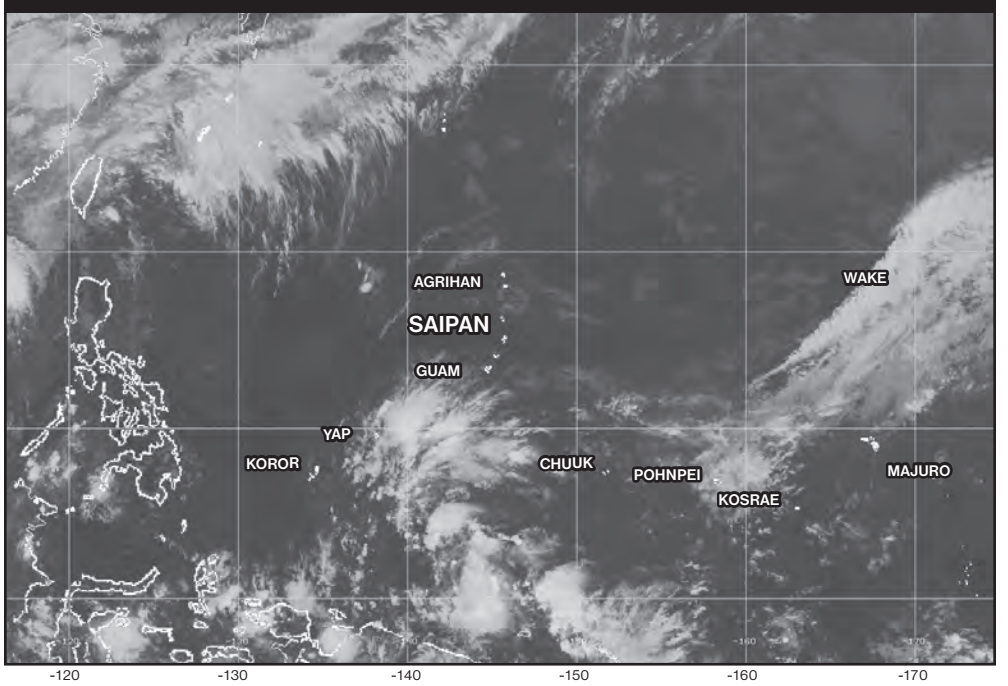
In which case the majority opinion, even if correct as a constitutional matter, could point the way to political farce.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
88° 79°	88° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:45 AM TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery showing partly cloudy skies and isolated trade showers. Latest altimetry data is indicating seas of 6 to 9 feet to the east of the coastal waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Yap	Cloudy	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Cloudy	87° / 82°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:26 AM	5:32 PM
Thursday	-	5:07 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	-	5:53 AM	7:24 PM
Saturday	-	6:45 AM	8:24 PM
Sunday	-	7:42 AM	9:22 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	59° / 48°
Beijing	Fair	80° / 61°
Hong Kong	Rain Shower	77° / 74°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	84° / 73°
London	Cloudy	70° / 49°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	70° / 55°
Manila	Fair	97° / 82°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
New York	Fair	71° / 55°
Osaka	Fair	77° / 65°
Paris	Sunny	77° / 54°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	66° / 55°
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 61°
Salem	Clear	83° / 64°
San Francisco	Clear	66° / 50°
Seoul	Sunny	79° / 60°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	80° / 61°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:37 AM	Low Tide	1.21
5:57 AM	High Tide	1.93
1:09 PM	Low Tide	0.07
8:08 PM	High Tide	1.89

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Year later, federal support for Mawar recovery reaches more than $338M

GUAM—It has been one year since Typhoon Mawar caused the island of Guam to announce a major disaster declaration.

More than $338 million in federal assistance has been provided to survivors in Guam to include grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Individual Assistance and Public Assistance Programs, and low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. To-date, FEMA remains in the affected communities, working with local and state officials to provide Public Assistance grants and temporary housing.

Public Assistance

As of May 6, 2024, 175 projects have been approved for $10.4 million. Public Assistance is a cost-sharing program that aids state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, and certain types of nonprofit organizations, impacted by federally declared disasters. The assistance allows for reimbursement for eligible work including debris removal, emergency protective measures and repairs to infrastructure and other structures. The Public Assistance program is funded by FEMA and administered by Guam Homeland Security Office of Civil Defense.

Individual Assistance

As of May 05, 2024, 29,955 registrations have been received and nearly $71million in FEMA grants have been

approved for renters and homeowners in Guam.

■ Nearly $40 million has been provided in Housing Assistance that helps pay for uninsured home repairs, home replacement, and rental assistance for short-term lodging.

■ More than $31 million in Other Needs Assistance grants have been provided to help pay for uninsured personal property replacement and other serious storm-related needs.

SBA disaster loans

SBA has approved in total more than $257 million in long-term, low interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, and businesses. These flexible loans may help supplement insurance settlements and FEMA grants.

■ More than $213 million in home loans

■ More than $41 million in business loans.

■ More than $2 million in economic injury loans to support small businesses and nonprofits that suffered disaster-related economic losses.

The application period has closed as of July 28, 2023. To provide updates on your application, submit new information or ask questions; call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 from 10pm through 2pm. CHST the following day. Download the FEMA mobile app.

For the latest FEMA information visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4715. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Typhoon Mawar hit Guam on May 22, 2023.

DoD representatives meet with residents of Palau

US NAVY

U.S. Department of Defense representatives and engineers meet with Peleliu Gov. Emais Roberts ahead of the first of three engagements with Peleliu residents and landowners, May 13. About 200 residents attended the meetings which were held to discuss the proposed designation of a new defense site in Peleliu.

KOROR, Republic of Palau—A team of engineers and representatives of the U.S. Department of Defense met with government leaders and residents of the Republic of Palau to discuss the proposed designation of a new defense site in Peleliu, May 13 and 15.

About 200 residents attended the public engagements held at the Peleliu state office and in the Senate Building in Koror. Judy Sanchez, deputy political-military advisor, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Senior Military Official to Palau, and Harry Elliott, counsel for the INDOPACOM Senior Military Official to Palau, led the community engagements. Engineers from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Marine Corps shared details about the proposed defense site, which include repairs and expansion to the Peleliu Airstrip and Peleliu's South Dock.

"We have a strong partnership with the Palauan government and people. When the Government of Palau sought to improve the infrastructure in Peleliu, we looked together to the designation of this new defense site to strengthen the U.S.'s ability to secure and defend Palau and meet this request," said Elliott.

"We are one Pacific family, and the intent of these sites is to promote the quality of life for the people in Palau, and to enhance our capabilities throughout the region to include humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts, and power projection. Open and honest communication will remain a key element as we work with the government and people of Palau to reach

» Discuss proposed designation of defense site in Peleliu

our mutual goals and we are committed to involving the Palauan people every step of the way," Elliott said.

Peleliu State Gov. Emais Roberts, Palau Minister of Public Infrastructure and Industries Charles Obichang, Palau National Security Coordinator Jennifer Anson, Peleliu State Delegate Nace Soalablai, and Speaker of the Peleliu State Legislature Billy Rekemel also attended.

Roberts remarked that the meetings were a positive step toward the designation of the new defense site and thanked the team for taking the time to include the community in the conversation.

"It's all about partnership," Roberts said. "The Republic of Palau and State of Peleliu asked the U.S. government, asked the Department of Defense to help fix the airfield for our benefit, and also for the benefit of the military if they had the use for it."

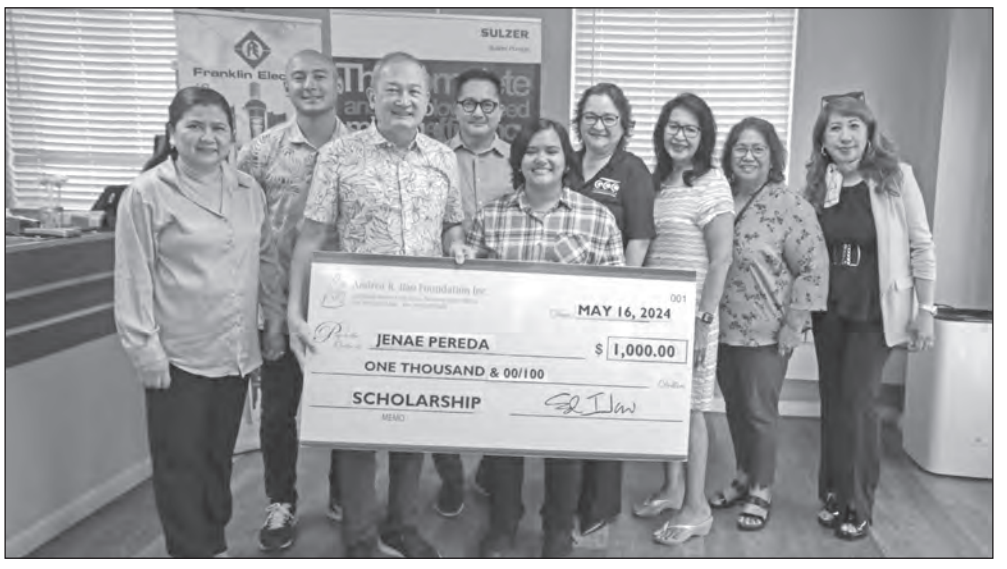
"I told the people of Peleliu that anything that's happening needs to come in front of the public, everyone needs to know about it, we'll have a consensus of where to go, and then we'll proceed," Roberts continued. "The last two meetings, one in Peleliu, the one in Koror, so far everybody is on board. They want this project to move as fast as possible. The benefit is so great for the people of Peleliu."

The team hosted an additional meeting to address specific questions from landowners in Peleliu.

Rear Adm. Greg Huffman, INDOPACOM Senior Military Official to Palau shared his gratitude to the Palauan government and residents who participated in the meetings.

"We are thankful to the Government and people of Palau for their partnership and their continued support of our U.S. Armed Forces in the region. We are committed to being good partners as we work together to defend the homeland, deter aggression, and maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific," Huffman said. ***(PR)***

Andrea R. Ilao Foundation awards GCC student with scholarship



GCC

Front from left, Rose P. Grino, vice vhair GCC Board of Trustees; Ed Ilao, president JMI Ediso; and Jenae Therese Pereda, Andrea Ilao scholarship recipient. Back from left, John E. Ilao,sSales executive, JMI Edison; John R. Ilao, vice president JMI Edison; Dr. Mary A. Y. Okada, president, Guam Community College; Lorraine S. Okada, chairperson, GCC Foundation Board of Governors; Carline Bukikosa, member, GCC Foundation Board of Governors; and Narlin Manalo, member, GCC Foundation Board of Governors.

GUAM—The Andrea R. Ilao Foundation recently awarded a $1,000 scholarship to Jenae Therese Pereda on Thursday, May 16, 2024. She is working on an Associate Degree in Early Childhood from Guam Community College, and is currently pursuing construction trades certificates in HVAC and plumbing.

The foundation was established in December 2014 by the Ilao family in honor of their mother, Andrea, who left a legacy of civic engagement and philanthropy, which has benefited various organizations and causes on Guam. To date the foundation has awarded more than $35,000 in student scholarships.

GCC

Andrea Ilao scholarship recipient Jenae Therese Pereda.

"Being a recipient of the Ilao Foundation Scholarship is a great honor and opportunity," said Pereda. "It shows recognition of my hard work and dedication to my studies. Scholarships like this not only provide financial support but also open doors to new experiences and future opportunities. I am very grateful to the donors of the Ilao Foundation Scholarship," she added.

To be eligible for the Andrea R. Ilao Foundation scholarship, a student must be a resident of Guam, registered as a part-time up to full-time student working toward a Certificate in Construction Technology-Electrical & Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning Track or Electricity, maintain a minimum 2.8 GPA, and submit a two-page essay discussing career goals.

To find out more information on this scholarship and others visit GuamCC.edu/scholarships, email financialaid@guamcc.edu or call 671-735-5543. ***(PR)***

Business

Tabilas becomes first woman to get CIMA certification in Guam

MAITE, Guam—David Beaver & Associates of Raymond James announced that Investment Portfolio associate Brianna T. Tabilas received the Certified Investment Management Analyst designation, a notable global finance qualification, on May 1, 2024, and is the first woman in Guam to receive the certification.

Tabilas

DB&A senior vice president David Beaver said, "We are extremely proud of Brianna for her diligence in pursuing her CIMA certification and becoming the first female on the island to accomplish this achievement. In addition to expanding her knowledge, her new CIMA title means that she offers a level of expertise that our clients expect from David Beaver & Associates."

The Investments & Wealth Institute certifies and issues the CIMA credentials for investment management professionals. Guam currently has four CIMA-certified professionals, all of whom are Raymond James investment advisors—Daniel Arnaud Roland, managing director, senior institutional consultant, and founder and principal consultant of the Asia Pacific Group of Raymond James; Jason Miyashita, senior vice president of investments and senior institutional consultant of the Asia Pacific Group of Raymond James; Beaver; and Tabilas.

Tabilas said, "I pursued this certification for self-enrichment and took another step toward becoming a financial advisor, which is my goal. What I learned through the CIMA program allows me to guide our clients more effectively when they're making important investment decisions. Continuing education is important to the Raymond James organization, and we know this sets us apart from our competitors."

In 2016, Tabilas graduated from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, and in 2020, she graduated from the University of Guam, earning her Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a concentration in finance and economics. Tabilas joined the DB&A team in 2018.

Tabilas added, "I hope to inspire other women in my industry to continue learning and aspire for certifications that can make them better in their careers. It will allow us to help Guam residents build their wealth and improve their quality of life."

To learn more about DB&A and its services, visit the company's website beaverassociates.com,or call (671) 969-5296 to schedule an appointment with a wealth management specialist.

David Beaver & Associates offers a personalized approach to managing wealth for its clients. Collectively, DB&A offers decades of experience in financial planning and wealth management. DB&A offers a breadth of resources and capabilities of a large corporation and provides the tailored, attentive service of a small firm, advocating for its clients' long-term financial success through persistent management and ongoing guidance. The company's office is located in Maite, Guam. Visit the company's website beaverassociates.com or call (671) 969-5296 to learn more. ***(PR)***

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World

War crimes chief prosecutor seeks arrest of Israeli and Hamas leaders

JERUSALEM (AP)—The chief prosecutor of the world's top war crimes court sought arrest warrants Monday for leaders of Israel and Hamas, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, over actions taken during their seven-month war.

AP
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu chairs a cabinet meeting at the Kirya military base, which houses the Israeli Ministry of Defense, in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Dec. 24, 2023.

While Netanyahu and his defense minister, Yoav Gallant, do not face imminent arrest, the announcement by the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor was a symbolic blow that deepened Israel's isolation over the war in Gaza.

The court's prosecutor, Karim Khan, accused Netanyahu, Gallant, and three Hamas leaders—Yehya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif and Ismail Haniyeh—of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip and Israel.

Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders condemned the move as disgraceful and antisemitic. U.S. President Joe Biden also lambasted the prosecutor and supported Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas.

Netanyahu called the prosecutor's accusations against him a "disgrace," and an attack on the Israeli military and all of Israel. He vowed to press ahead with Israel's war against Hamas.

A panel of three judges will decide whether to issue the arrest warrants and allow a case to proceed. The judges typically take two months to make such decisions.

Israel is not a member of the court, so even if the arrest warrants are issued, Netanyahu and Gallant do not face any immediate risk of prosecution. But the threat of arrest could make it difficult for the Israeli leaders to travel abroad.

Biden said the effort to arrest Netanyahu and Gallant over the war in Gaza was "outrageous," adding "whatever this prosecutor might imply, there is no equivalence—none—between Israel and Hamas."

Hamas also denounced the ICC prosecutor's actions, saying the request to arrest its leaders "equates the victim with the executioner."

Netanyahu has come under heavy pressure at home to end the war. Thousands of Israelis have joined weekly demonstrations calling on the government to reach a deal to bring home Israeli hostages in Hamas captivity, fearing that time is running out.

Iran's president, foreign minister die in helicopter crash

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the country's foreign minister were found dead Monday hours after their helicopter crashed in fog, leaving the Islamic Republic without two key leaders as extraordinary tensions grip the wider Middle East.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say in the Shiite theocracy, quickly named a little-known vice president as caretaker and insisted the government was in control, but the deaths marked yet another blow to a country beset by pressures at home and abroad.

Iran has offered no cause for the crash nor suggested sabotage brought down the helicopter, which fell in mountainous terrain in a sudden, intense fog.

In Tehran, Iran's capital, businesses were open and children attended school Monday. However, there was a noticeable presence of both uniformed and plainclothes security forces.

Later in the day, hundreds of mourners crowded into downtown Vali-e-Asr square holding posters of Raisi and waving Palestinian flags. Some men clutched prayer beads and were visibly crying. Women wearing black chadors gathered together holding photos of the dead leader.

"We were shocked that we lost such a character, a character that made Iran proud, and humiliated the enemies," said Mohammad Beheshti, 36.

The crash comes as the Israel-Hamas war roils the region. Iran-backed Hamas led the attack that started the conflict, and Hezbollah, also supported by Tehran, has fired rockets at Israel. Last month, Iran launched its own unprecedented drone-and-missile attack on Israel.

A hard-liner who formerly led the country's judiciary, Raisi, 63, was viewed as a protege of Khamenei. During his tenure, relations continued to deteriorate with the West as Iran enriched uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels and supplied bomb-carrying drones to Russia for its war in Ukraine.

Life & Style

MOVIE REVIEW:

'The Garfield Movie' is a bizarre animated tale that's not pur-fect in any way

By MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer

If you catch the latest Garfield movie, you might not expect to find the famous orange feline at one point running from bad guys on the top of a speeding train. Lasagna eating? Sure. But any sort of cardio?

Then prepare for "The Garfield Movie," a curious new animated attempt to monetize the comic icon again by giving him an origin story and then asking him to do things a galaxy away from what he does in the funny pages. It's like if Snoopy ran an underground bare-knuckle fight club.

Chris Pratt voices the Monday-hating, self-centered hero and Samuel L. Jackson animates his long-lost father, who abandoned Garfield in an alley one rainy night, leading to lifelong trauma. That may explain his endless appetite, to fill the void of parental neglect. What does "The Garfield Movie" say about that idea? Are you kidding?

"The Garfield Movie," directed by Mark Dindal, reunites Garfield and his not-so-savory dad—there's no mention of a mom and there are shades of the plots from "Kung Fu Panda 3" and "Chicken Run"—as he gets caught up in a criminal plot to raid a corporate dairy and steal thousands of gallons of milk.

Sorry, what was that? Garfield is perhaps the most indoor cat in history and seeing him dodge massive chopping blades or boulders onscreen is just plain weird. Making it even weirder is that his partner Odie—traditionally a drooling idiot—is remade here as highly competent, perhaps even a savant. This is not canon.

AP

This image released by Sony Pictures shows characters Odie, voiced by Harvey Guillén, from left, Vic, voiced by Samuel L. Jackson, and Garfield, voiced by Chris Pratt, in a scene from the animated film "The Garfield Movie."

The movie gets mildly amusing as it recreates the kind of vent-crawling, security guard-avoiding heist in the dairy along to the theme from "Mission: Impossible" and that's largely because the gang is being directed by a bull voiced by Ving Rhames, a veteran of that franchise. There are also nods to "Top Gun": I do my own stunts," Garfield says. "Me and Tom Cruise."

The script—by Paul A. Kaplan, Mark Torgove and David Reynolds—grounds the movie firmly in today, with Garfield using food delivery phone apps and Bluetooth, watching Catflix and characters declaring that they are "self-actualized." There's also some pretty awkward product placement, like for Olive Garden, that may not send the message they wanted.

This is the part when we talk about food abuse. Garfield has a bit of a problem on this front, and the filmmakers more than lean into it. Thousands of pounds of junk food get inhaled by the tabby, but not salad. Heaven is described as an "all-you-can-eat buffet in the sky" and cheese is Garfield's "love language." It's the laziest kind of writing.

There's a mini "Ted Lasso" reunion when Hannah Waddingham (playing a psychotic gang leader) and Brett Goldstein (as her henchman) appear, while Snoop Dogg has a cameo as the voice of a one-eyed cat and offers a song that runs over the credits.

The animation is pretty great—the backgrounds, at least. Ladders show rust and forests are lush, but then the main characters are a step or two less realized, more cartoonish. Jim Davis, who created Garfield, is an executive producer so he must be OK with all of this, a forgettable, unfunny animated slog. At one point, Garfield says "Bury me in cheese" and that seems a fitting final resting place for this cat's film career.

Amal Clooney one of the legal experts who recommended war crimes charges in Israel-Hamas war

Amal Clooney is one of the legal experts who recommended that the chief prosecutor of the world's top war crimes court seek arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and leaders of the militant Hamas group.

The human rights lawyer and wife of actor George Clooney wrote of her participation in a letter posted Monday on the website of the couple's Clooney Foundation for Justice. She said she and other experts in international law unanimously agreed to recommend that International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Karim Khan seek the warrants.

Khan announced his intention to do so on Monday, saying that actions taken by both Israeli leaders and Hamas in the seven-month war in Gaza amounted to war crimes.

Clooney

"I served on this Panel because I believe in the rule of law and the need to protect civilian lives," Clooney wrote. "The law that protects civilians in war was developed more than 100 years ago and it applies in every country in the world regardless of the reasons for a conflict."

The panel comprised experts in international humanitarian law and international criminal law, and two of its members are former judges at criminal tribunals in The Hague, where the ICC is based, Clooney wrote. She added that their decision was unanimous. The panel also published an op-ed about its recommendation in the Financial Times on Monday.

A panel of three judges at the ICC will decide whether to issue the arrest warrants and allow a case to proceed. The judges typically take two months to make such decisions.

In his announcement Monday, Khan accused Netanyahu, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and three Hamas leaders—Yehia Sinwar, Mohammed Deif and Ismail Haniyeh—of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip and Israel.

Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders condemned the move as disgraceful and antisemitic. U.S. President Joe Biden also lambasted the prosecutor and supported Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas.

Israel is not a member of the court, so even if the arrest warrants are issued, Netanyahu and Gallant do not face any immediate risk of prosecution. But the threat of arrest could make it difficult for the Israeli leaders to travel abroad. Hamas is already considered an international terrorist group by the West.

The latest war between Israel and Hamas began on Oct. 7, when militants from Gaza crossed into Israel and killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 250 others hostage.

Since then, Israel has waged a brutal campaign to dismantle Hamas in Gaza. More than 35,000 Palestinians have been killed in the fighting, at least half of them women and children, according to the latest estimates by Gaza health officials, who do not distinguish between civilians and Hamas militants.

The war has triggered a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, displacing roughly 80% of the population and leaving hundreds of thousands of people on the brink of starvation, according to U.N. officials. ***(AP)***

Grieving man's new 'friends' concern wife of four decades

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 42 years. Three months ago, I started seeing changes in my husband's behavior. He had lost two good friends within two months, so I attributed it to that.

Then one day, he asked me to look up something on his phone and that's when I saw text messages between him and a girl named "Ginger" who works for him, inviting her to come to the shop every night to have a beer. Of course she never said no. She also would text him looking for him if he couldn't make it, telling him she would miss him.

My husband is 60; Ginger is 30. He also tells me he also has a woman friend (also 30) who works at a local business. He has confided personal family business to her that I know she has shared with other people.

I'm at a loss. I'm retired but I'm always ready to go and do anything with him. I have supper ready when he gets home after spending an extra hour with Ginger every night. What can I do to bring my husband home to me? I take care of myself, always look my best and listen when he talks.

WHAT TO DO IN THE EAST

DEAR WHAT TO DO: This may have nothing to do with you and everything to do with your husband's fear of his own mortality. In light of the fact that he has just lost two close friends in the last three months, he may find the company of these young women to be a distraction. That said, what he's doing is disrespectful to you and possibly a threat to your marriage.

Have you discussed how this has made you feel? If you haven't, you should. You appear to be trying your best to do your part, but you can't fix this alone. It may be time for you to start concentrating less on what pleases him and more on what is good for you. And while you're at it, begin monitoring his/your financial records to see if there have been any "out of the ordinary" expenditures. If there have been, it may be time to consult a lawyer.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 30 years but have never really been happy with each other. For years I have had painful skin infections on my face, which have required trips to multiple dermatologists. They have done biopsies, and they still can't pinpoint the cause of my skin problems.

Recently, because one of my infections was spreading to my sinus cavity and my eye, I moved out of the master bedroom into one of the kids' old rooms. My skin is clearing up now, and I'm pain-free.

I always suspected that my husband might have had something to do with this, plus I found a book he had about wild mushrooms. In it, he had underlined a part that said mushrooms are parasitic. What do you think, Abby?

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

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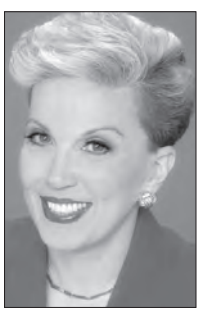


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

SUSPICIOUS IN FLORIDA

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: I think you should discuss this with the doctors who have been trying to diagnose the cause of your repeated infections. If you are correct in your suspicions, you should talk to the police because your husband may be guilty of assault with intent to harm you. This may be your chance to end your long, unhappy marriage. Do NOT return to the master bedroom until this matter has been resolved to your satisfaction.

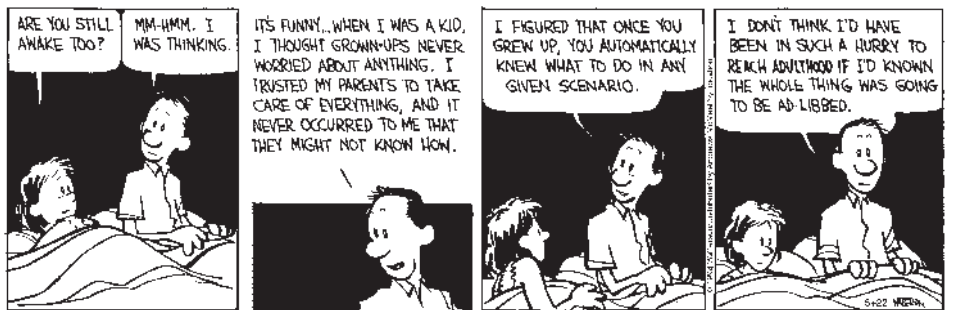
■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

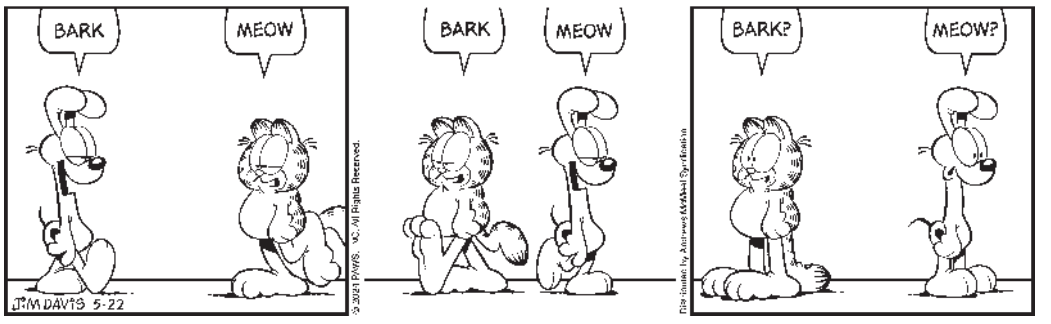
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ARE YOU STILL AWAKE TOO?
MM-HMM. I WAS THINKING.
IT'S FUNNY...WHEN I WAS A KID, I THOUGHT GROWN-UPS NEVER WORRIED ABOUT ANYTHING. I TRUSTED MY PARENTS TO TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING, AND IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT THEY MIGHT NOT KNOW HOW.
I FIGURED THAT ONCE YOU GREW UP, YOU AUTOMATICALLY KNEW WHAT TO DO IN ANY GIVEN SCENARIO.
I DON'T THINK I'D HAVE BEEN IN SUCH A HURRY TO REACH ADULTHOOD IF I'D KNOWN THE WHOLE THING WAS GOING TO BE AD-LIBBED.

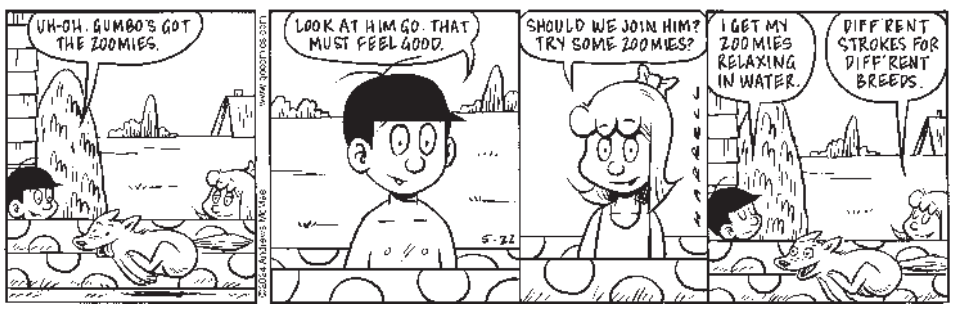
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


UH-OH. GUMBO'S GOT THE ZOOMIES.
LOOK AT HIM GO. THAT MUST FEEL GOOD.
SHOULD WE JOIN HIM? TRY SOME ZOOMIES?
I GET MY ZOOMIES RELAXING IN WATER.
DIFF'RENT STROKES FOR DIFF'RENT BREEDS.
5-22

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS SAYS THAT THE CICADAS ARE STARTING TO EMERGE AFTER SPENDING SO MUCH TIME UNDERGROUND.
YEP. AND SOON THEY'LL DEVOUR ALL THE GRASS, WHICH MEANS AN END TO MOWING THE LAWN.
CICADAS DON'T EAT GRASS!
YOU MEAN I'VE WAITED 17 YEARS FOR NOTHING?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

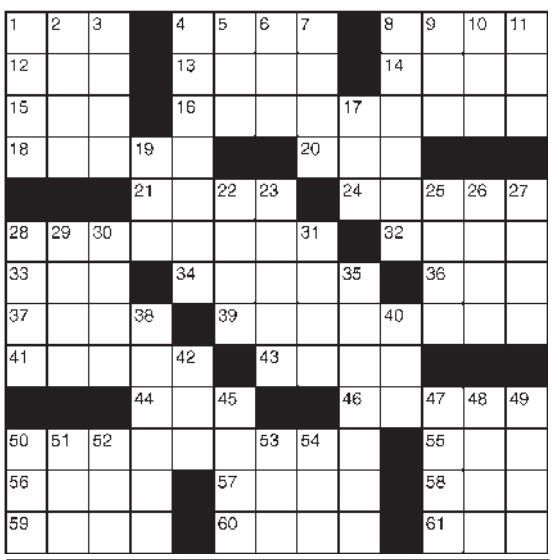
ACROSS
1 Small battery
4 Greek salad cheese
8 Actress Merrill
12 Clothes line
13 One-named supermodel
14 Russian river
15 Shapiro of NPR
16 Up-to-date
18 Tennis star Becker
20 Ultimate
21 Gulf War missile
24 Allayed
28 Have debts
32 Small plateau
33 Photos, slangily
34 Messy places
36 Legislation
37 Miles away
39 Start of a Whitman poem
41 Maximum
43 Biblical twin
44 Prized possession
46 Make merry
50 Steve Perry hit single
55 "I — Rock"
56 Source
57 Pet food brand
58 Deep hole
59 Cribs
60 Attempt
61 Arles summer

DOWN
1 Melville mariner
2 Prefix with dynamic
3 "Industry" actor El-Masry
4 Debacles
5 Outback bird
6 Tic- — -toe
7 Soon, poetically
8 Home of Duke
9 401(k) alternative
10 Indian bread
11 Flight stat
17 Salt Lake athlete
19 Doctrine
22 A law — itself
23 Unfreeze
25 Ward of "Sisters"
26 Actor Morales
27 First light
28 October stone
29 Laptop connection
30 Pre-diploma hurdle
31 Pro votes
35 Least decorated
38 Civil —
40 Calendar abbr.
42 Casual shirt
45 Hosp. scans
47 Smoke an e-cig
48 Send forth
49 Overdue
50 Globe
51 — polloi
52 Abel, to Adam
53 Fan's shout
54 Texter's "I think"

Solution time: 23 mins.

M	A	I	S	■	S	L	A	V	■	C	H	E
C	H	A	P	■	L	O	D	I	■	H	A	D
C	A	R	E	L	A	B	E	L	■	E	N	G
■	■	■	C	O	P	S	■	L	I	E	G	E
B	A	C	K	S	■	■	S	A	S	S	■	■
I	C	U	S	■	S	I	N	G	I	F	T	S
B	I	T	■	B	O	W	I	F	■	L	F	O
B	U	S	D	E	P	O	T	■	T	O	A	D
■	■	L	E	E	S	■	■	M	A	G	M	A
W	O	O	E	R	■	O	I	L	Y	■	■	■
A	M	O	■	C	O	N	C	A	L	I	N	E
R	L	S	■	A	H	C	C	■	O	D	I	N
N	N	E	■	N	E	E	H	■	H	O	A	D

Yesterday's answer 5-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Novak Djokovic, 37; Apolo Ohno, 42; Ginnifer Goodwin, 46; Naomi Campbell, 54.

Happy Birthday: Put pressure on yourself to make things happen this year. Learn, explore and experiment. It's up to you to connect with experts who can point you in the right direction. Embrace change and pursue your dreams with a smile and a kind heart, and you will reap the rewards. Your numbers are 2, 10, 18, 26, 34, 42, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take care of legal, financial and medical issues swiftly. Changing how you handle your investments or do a job will offer insight into personal gain and something that makes you feel good about yourself and the direction you are heading. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Get involved, do your part and make a difference. Putting your energy where it makes you feel good will help clear any misconceptions regarding possibilities and what you can contribute. Romance, personal gain and self-improvement are favored. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Make up your mind and start your day with determination and a plan that helps you reach your goal. Don't let anyone slow you down. An astute view of your situation will help you make the right moves. Position yourself for success and proceed. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Expand your mind, vision and plans to suit your needs. Following through with something meaningful will align you with like-minded people and possibilities. Stop contemplating and start following your heart and exploring your options. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Someone will block you using emotional tactics. The less often you deal with others, the easier it will be to get things done. Channel your energy into learning and honing your skills to accommodate your goals. Tunnel vision will get you where you want to go. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You are on the right path; let your imagination flow and shape how you want to proceed. Share your thoughts, listen to experts and set criteria to reach your objective. Personal gain, peace and love are apparent and will lead to your desired security. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Fix your surroundings and make your space conducive to your goal. A proper workspace that can help you achieve the most will boost your morale and feed your imagination. Don't settle for less when you can have so much more. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Keep the momentum flowing. Get involved, speak your mind, and make your intentions and feelings clear to those who matter to you. Ignore anyone pressuring you to do things that benefit them more than you, and you'll gain perspective and achieve your goal. Personal gain is favored. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take a break. Refrain from letting monotony settle in and ruin your day. Return to basics, consider what matters most and redesign your schedule to meet your needs. An energetic activity will pump you up and renew your faith in yourself and what you can achieve. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Join forces with those who share your concerns. You can make a difference if you participate. Pay attention to detail, and make concessions to explore your options. A personal change looks promising and will promote love and personal growth. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take your time. Don't trust what others do or say. Follow your heart and use common sense when dealing with domestic issues and the changes those around you want to implement. Pay more attention to health, fitness and striving to be your best. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Do whatever it takes to educate, enforce your plans and change what isn't working for you anymore. Opportunity begins with you, so don't be afraid to take the path that beckons you instead of following the crowd. Choose to love yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, energetic and flexible. You are compassionate and helpful.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3	1						6	
		9			3			7
2		7		6				
6	9	8				1	2	
7	4		8		6		3	
1	2		5			9		
		3						
			9		7			3

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	3	1	6	7	2	5	9	4
5	7	6	4	9	1	3	2	8
4	9	2	3	8	5	6	7	1
9	5	7	1	2	6	8	4	3
3	1	8	7	4	9	2	6	5
6	2	4	5	3	8	9	1	7
1	4	5	9	6	3	7	8	2
2	6	3	8	1	7	4	5	9
7	8	9	2	5	4	1	3	6

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Difficulty: ★★ 5/21

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ROBERTO CAVALLI (1940-2024) Solution: 9 letters

D	A	N	I	E	L	E	L	E	H	C	A	R	F	Ⓛ
E	Z	G	H	R	A	E	W	E	V	I	T	C	A	Ⓞ
S	E	S	S	A	L	G	N	U	S	N	A	M	S	Ⓖ
I	P	S	T	R	I	H	S	I	E	T	I	E	H	Ⓞ
G	O	O	I	L	S	R	L	T	W	N	S	C	I	A
N	R	S	G	D	G	K	A	A	A	R	G	N	O	A
E	T	A	E	L	A	P	L	L	E	E	N	E	N	N
R	T	M	R	R	B	K	L	V	D	N	A	R	B	A
M	N	M	H	O	M	E	I	A	R	P	F	O	M	I
A	I	O	O	W	N	N	C	S	Y	O	O	L	I	T
R	A	T	R	A	U	O	S	T	N	S	B	F	L	S
D	S	E	V	S	R	T	H	O	U	O	T	I	A	I
N	V	L	S	B	A	O	I	T	A	L	I	A	N	R
A	I	I	S	L	N	O	I	T	C	E	L	L	O	C
S	M	U	F	F	I	Z	I	S	E	H	T	O	L	C

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Activewear, Animal, Bags, Boots, Brand, Brocade, Catwalk, Clothes, Coats, Collection, Cristiana, Daniele, Designer, Eva, Fang, Fashion, Flats, Florence, Hair, Home, Italian, Lions, Logo, Milano, Miss Universe, Patent, Python, Rachele, Robin, Saint-Tropez, Sandra, Shirts, Silk, Silvanella, Sunglasses, Tiger, Tommaso, Uffizi, World

Yesterday's Answer: Chocolate

The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at: www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Blue Jays beat White Sox behind Bo Bichette's 4 hits

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Bo Bichette had three doubles among his four hits, José Berríos pitched six solid innings to snap a four-start winless streak, and the Toronto Blue Jays won consecutive games for the first time in more than three weeks by beating the struggling Chicago White Sox 9-3 on Monday.

Daulton Varsho and Danny Jansen each hit a two-run home run and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. reached base three times and drove in a run as Toronto won back-to-back games for the first time since home wins over the Dodgers and Kansas City on April 28 and 29.

Bichette began the day in an 0-for-12 slump but broke out in style. He doubled and scored in the second inning, singled in the third, drove in Guerrero with an RBI double in the sixth, then added another double in the seventh.

Berríos (5-3) allowed three runs and eight hits to win for the first time since a road victory over San Diego on April 20. He struck out six and walked two.

Varsho gave the Blue Jays a 2-1 lead with a two-out homer off White Sox right-hander Erick Fedde in the second, his team-leading eighth.

Fedde (4-1) allowed five runs and seven hits in six innings for his first loss of the season. He walked one and struck out two.

AP

Toronto Blue Jays' Vladimir Guerrero Jr. dives into home to score on a double by teammate Bo Bichette during sixth-inning baseball game action in Toronto, Monday, May 20, 2024.

PADRES 6, BRAVES 5, 1ST GAME
BRAVES 3, PADRES 0, 2ND GAME

ATLANTA (AP)—Chris Sale allowed only five hits in seven innings to continue his strong run and Atlanta snapped their season-worst, four-game losing streak by beating San Diego to split a doubleheader.

The Padres won the first three games of the series. Manny Machado's two-run double in the eighth gave San Diego the lead and the Padres rallied from a five-run deficit to win the twinbill opener.

In the nightcap, Sale (7-1) recorded nine strikeouts without a walk while winning his sixth straight start. He has allowed no runs in three consecutive starts, a streak covering 20 innings. He has 28 strikeouts and one walk in the dominant stretch.

Pierce Johnson and Raisel Iglesias completed the seven-hitter. Iglesias pitched a perfect ninth for his 11th save.

GUARDIANS 3, METS 1

CLEVELAND (AP)—Ben Lively had another solid start, David Fry drove in two early runs and Cleveland won their fourth straight over the New York Mets to ruin Francisco Lindor's homecoming.

Lindor, who spent six seasons with Cleveland, went 0 for 4 in his first game at Progressive Field since being traded to New York in 2021.

The four-time All-Star shortstop struck out, grounded out twice and flied out, dropping his average to .193.

Lively (3-2) allowed just one run—a homer—and six hits in 5 2/3 innings before first-year manager Stephen Vogt turned things over to his bullish bullpen.

Nick Sandlin took over a two-on, two-out situation in the sixth and gave up a walk before striking out Brett Baty with the bases loaded. Scott Barlow pitched a 1-2-3 seventh and rookie Cade Smith struck out two in the eighth.

Cleveland closer Emmanuel Clase finished up the combined six-hitter in the ninth for his 14th save. The right-hander has given up just one earned run in 24 1/3 innings this season.

RED SOX 5, RAYS 0

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Rafael Devers set a team record by homering in his sixth consecutive game, Tanner Houck allowed two hits over seven innings, and Boston beat Tampa Bay.

Devers had shared the Boston mark of a five-game homer streak with six others, including Hall of Famers Ted Williams and Jimmie Foxx.

Houck (4-5) allowed a third-inning single to Yandy Díaz and an infield hit to Josh Lowe in the seventh. He struck out five and was charged with one walk—which occurred when Devers was ruled to have violated defensive shift rules for an automatic ball on Jonathan Aranda's groundout in the second on a 3-2 pitch.

Ceddanne Rafaela also homered for the Red Sox, who returned to .500 at 24-24.

Justin Slaten completed a three-hitter as Boston improved to 6-22 at Tampa Bay since the start of the 2021 season.

NATIONALS 12, TWINS 3

WASHINGTON (AP)—Luis García Jr. homered and drove in three runs, Eddie Rosario also had three RBIs and Washington snapped a five-game slide with a victory over Minnesota.

Jesse Winker hit a solo shot and Jacob Young delivered a two-run single during a four-run fifth inning off Twins starter Pablo López (4-4) to help Washington pound out 14 hits and hand Minnesota its seventh straight defeat.

Mitchell Parker (3-2) allowed three runs in six innings in the series opener, his longest outing since the rookie threw seven in a 2-0 win over Houston on April 21.

Minnesota's Carlos Correa hit a two-run homer in the sixth. But Parker escaped further trouble when he struck out Kyle Farmer to strand two and end his outing.

MARLINS 3, BREWERS 2, 10 INNINGS

MIAMI (AP)—Josh Bell singled with the bases loaded in the 10th inning to give Miami a victory over the Milwaukee.

Christian Bethancourt's sacrifice bunt against reliever Mitch White (1-1) advanced automatic runner Vidal Brujan to third. Jazz Chisholm Jr. was intentionally walked and stole second. Bryan De La Cruz drew an intentional walk before Bell hit a grounder to right field that scored Brujan.

Tanner Scott (4-4) allowed a leadoff walk to Christian Yelich in the top of the 10th. Joey Ortiz's sacrifice bunt advanced courtesy runner Brice Turang and Yelich before Scott struck out Willy Adames and retired Gary Sánchez on a flyout to medium center.

The NL Central-leading Brewers used seven relievers after starter Joe Ross left after the first inning because of a low back strain.

MARINERS 5, YANKEES 4

NEW YORK (AP)—Ty France hit a go-ahead RBI single in Seattle's four-run ninth inning against reliever Clay Holmes, and Mariners rallied to beat the New York Yankees.

The Mariners ended New York's seven-game winning streak with the big inning against Holmes (1-1), who blew his second save in 15 chances.

Luke Raley, who had two of Seattle's three hits off starter Marcus Stroman, hit an infield single to Gleyber Torres and Julio Rodriguez scored on the second baseman's error. Mitch Haniger followed with an RBI single and Dominic Canzone lifted a tying sacrifice fly. France followed by grounding a 2-0 sinker to right field for a 5-4 lead.

Eduardo Bazardo (1-0) allowed an RBI single to Jon Berti in the bottom of the eighth that pushed New York's lead to 4-1 before the comeback gave Seattle its second win in 23 games when trailing through eight.

Andrés Muñoz got the last three outs, stranding Juan Soto at first for his ninth save.

ROYALS 8, TIGERS 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Michael Massey and Salvador Perez homered as Kansas City beat Detroit for their fourth straight win.

Massey opened the scoring in the second inning with a leadoff homer, the first long ball given up this season by Tigers starter Reese Olson after 48 1/3 innings, snapping the majors' longest homerless streak.

In his next at-bat, Massey stunned Olson with a liner off his right hip while Vinnie Pasquantino scored on catcher Jake Rogers' throwing error for a 2-0 Royals lead.

After tossing a few warmup pitches, Olson (0-5) exited with a right hip contusion. He threw 2 2/3 innings, allowing the two runs and five hits with one walk and two strikeouts.

Perez led off the sixth with his ninth homer as the Royals greeted reliever Joey Wentz with five consecutive hits. Seven straight batters reached safely while Kansas City scored six runs to build an 8-1 lead.

Michael Wacha (4-4) allowed two runs and six hits in seven innings while walking one with three strikeouts to win his third straight start.

CARDINALS 6, ORIOLES 3

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Michael Siani hit his first career home run and drove in four runs, and St. Louis beat Baltimore.

Siani's three-run homer into the right field bullpen capped a four-run fourth inning that gave the Cardinals a 5-0 lead. It was the first homer in 91 career plate appearances for Siani, who spent parts of the 2022 and 2023 seasons with the Cincinnati Reds before being selected off waivers by the Cardinals last September.

Sonny Gray gave up three runs, just one earned, in 5 2/3 innings as the Cardinals won for the sixth time in their last eight games. Gray (6-2) allowed three hits, walked two and struck out six.

Gray took a no-hitter into the sixth only to have it unceremoniously ended by a three-run homer by Gunnar Henderson to cut the Cardinals' lead to 5-3.

ANGELS 9, ASTROS 7

HOUSTON (AP)—Nolan Schanuel and Logan O'Hoppe both hit three-run homers and Jo Adell added a solo shot as the Los Angeles Angels jumped on Framber Valdez for seven runs in the fifth inning to power them to a win over Houston.

Zach Neto homered in the sixth inning to give the Angels a season-high four home runs as they won for the fourth time in five games.

They trailed by five with two on and one out in the fifth when Schanuel homered to right field to cut the lead to 6-4. There were two on again with two outs when O'Hoppe connected to put Los Angeles up 7-6.

Adell sent the next pitch by Valdez (3-2) into the seats in right field to push it to 8-6.

Valdez was tagged for a season-high 10 hits and tied a career high by giving up eight runs in five innings.

Houston led 6-1 early after a three-run homer by Jose Altuve and a two-run shot from Mauricio Dubón before the big inning by Los Angeles.

DODGERS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 4

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Freddie Freeman's grand slam keyed a six-run third inning, Yoshinobu Yamamoto had a strong start and the Los Angeles Dodgers extended their winning streak to four with a victory over Arizona.

Freeman's blast off Slade Cecconi (1-4) was part of an onslaught where the first six Dodgers got aboard and scored in the third.

Kiké Hernández and Will Smith also went deep in the inning as Los Angeles improved to 33-17. It is the ninth time in franchise history the Dodgers have at least 33 wins after 50 games.

Arizona's Ketel Marte extended his hitting streak to 19 games with a single in the first inning. It is the longest run in the majors this season and tied for fifth-longest in franchise history.

Wolves reach conference finals brimming with talent and tenacity

DENVER (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves reached the Western Conference finals brimming with talent, trust and tenacity after staging the biggest Game 7 comeback since the NBA began tracking play-by-play data 28 years ago.

The Wolves trailed the Denver Nuggets by 15 points at halftime Sunday night and by 20 points just over a minute into the third quarter.

With the crowd rocking Ball Arena, the Timberwolves didn't flinch. They doubled down on their dogged defense and roared back for the most monumental victory in the franchise's 35-year history.

They did it behind a terrific transition game and an unwavering superstar in Anthony Edwards for a stunning 98-90 victory over the reigning NBA champions.

The Wolves will face the Dallas Mavericks beginning Wednesday night at Target Center.

"The fans have been waiting for this moment, and this team has brought them this moment," said Karl-Anthony Towns, adding that it certainly wasn't lost on him that Sunday marked Minnesota all-time great Kevin Garnett's 48th birthday.

"Shoutout to KG, happy birthday, KG," Towns said. "Here's your present from all of us."

Garnett led Minnesota to its first conference finals 20 years ago. The Wolves lost to the Los Angeles Lakers in six games in 2004 and Garnett never made it back to the postseason before leaving for Boston, where he won an NBA title in 2008.

AP

Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards reacts after hitting a basket over Denver Nuggets forward Aaron Gordon in the second half of Game 7 of an NBA second-round playoff series, Sunday, May 19, 2024, in Denver.

The Wolves would miss the playoffs 16 times in the next 17 years, making it only in 2018, when they lost in the first round to Houston.

Things began to turn around for the Timberwolves when they drafted Edwards No. 1 overall in 2020. They made it back to the postseason party the following year, losing to Memphis in Round 1.

After hiring head coach Chris Finch off Michael Malone's staff in Denver, the Timberwolves hired away the Nuggets' roster architect Tim Connelly, who built the Wolves explicitly to unseat his former team in Denver.

Connelly's first major move was a bold get of Rudy Gobert that was as risky as it was unconventional — he sent five players and five picks to Utah for the star defender — but going big was no small part of this breakthrough season for the Timberwolves.

"I think when Tim Connelly made that trade, everybody was laughing at him like, 'What is he doing?' But he made a great team," Nuggets center Nikola Jokic said as this series began.

Jokic and the defending NBA champions knew that well before losing their semifinal series in such humbling fashion to a team, like theirs, that was assembled largely at Connelly's direction.

As Jokic noted Sunday night, Connelly's deep, versatile roster can adapt to any style, meet any challenge and, as Sunday night showed, overcome the longest of odds.

The Timberwolves' resolve was hardened a year ago when they lurched into the playoffs with a short-handed team that was quickly dispatched by Denver in five games in Round 1.

Fueled by that disappointment, the Wolves won 56 games this year, produced the league's top defense and led the Western Conference for most of the season before finishing a game behind Oklahoma City and Denver for the No. 3 seed.

The Wolves made sure seeding didn't matter.

After their four-game dispatch of the Phoenix Suns that marked their first playoff sweep in franchise history, the Wolves were unfazed by the Nuggets' 20-5 record in the playoffs over the last two years or by their Western Conference-best 36-8 record at home this season.

The Wolves won three times in four games at Ball Arena. They took Games 1 and 2 in Denver before losing three in a row. Facing elimination, they recovered with a 115-70 demolition of the Nuggets in Game 6, the biggest win over a defending champion in NBA history.

And they followed up that win with an epic Game 7 comeback.

"The series was wild and this game was just a microcosm of the entire series," Finch said.

Towns and Jaden McDaniels each scored 23 points in the clincher. Edwards finished with 16 points, eight rebounds and seven assists with most of his contributions coming in Minnesota's surgical 60-37 second half that knocked out the Nuggets, who got 35 points from Jamal Murray and 34 from Jokic.

Up next are the fifth-seeded Mavericks, who reached their second conference championship in three years. They lost to eventual champion Golden State in five games in 2022, but that was before Luka Doncic had Kyrie Irving as his sidekick.

The Wolves won three of four against Dallas in the regular season, with the Mavs winning the only game in which Doncic and Irving both played. Dallas was without both its stars for both losses in Minnesota.

"Honestly, I think for us we're just so happy for this moment, that we can't even think about the next moment," Towns said.

"I'm thinking about it," Edwards playfully interrupted.

"I will say for us, if we continue to play Timberwolves basketball, it will fix a lot of problems that we may have with that team and what they do best," Towns suggested. "So as long as we play Timberwolves' brand of basketball, I like our chances."

Nuggets are 5th straight NBA champ to falter in quest to repeat but maintain high hopes for future

DENVER (AP)—As the shock of blowing their 20-point Game 7 lead settled in, Denver Nuggets coach Michael Malone repeated what had become somewhat of an underlying mantra for his talented but thinned team.

"I consider the San Antonio Spurs a dynasty, and they never won back-to-back," said Malone, saluting the franchise that won NBA titles every other year between 2003 and 2007.

The Nuggets will have to try to follow that formula now that their quest to become the first repeat champion since Golden State in 2018 came to a screeching end Sunday night with their 98-90 loss to the Minnesota Timberwolves and their rising superstar Anthony Edwards.

Jamal Murray bounced back from an elbow injury and a bad Game 6 with 35 points and three-time MVP Nikola Jokic had 34 points and 19 rebounds.

The duo combined for 32 second-half points but they got just five points from their supporting cast — a 3-pointer by Michael Porter Jr. and a bucket from Christian Braun, as the Wolves won for the third time in four games at Ball Arena.

Porter in particular was stifled by Minnesota's stellar defense. After averaging 22.8 points and 8.4 rebounds in the first round against the Los Angeles Lakers, MPJ was held to 11.3 points and 5.4 boards in Round 2.

Porter blamed himself for the Nuggets having to make earlier-than-expected summer vacation plans.

"There are a lot of things we could've done differently as a team," Porter said. "But I know if I would've played my part, we would've won this series. And I've got to live with that."

Porter entered these playoffs with a heavy heart after one brother was sentenced to six years in jail for vehicular homicide and another brother was banned from the NBA for life for his role in a gambling scandal.

"I'm not going to sit here and act like it wasn't a burden and I wasn't thinking about it all day every day," Porter said. "But that's still no excuse. I'm a better player than I played in this series. I'm a better shooter than I shot in this series. In the NBA, you have to be able to separate your off-the-court matters with your on-the-court-play."

Had he been able to better deal with that—not to mention the Wolves' swarming defense—Porter argues the Nuggets would be the ones preparing to host the Dallas Mavericks in the Western Conference finals this week instead of Minnesota.

Instead, they're the fifth consecutive NBA champion to fail to make it out of the second round in their quest to defend their title.

"We knew it was hard," Malone said. "It was something I talked to our team in training camp. The last team to do it was the '17-18 Warriors and with the rules being what they are now I think it's going to become even harder and harder to repeat as champions."

After losing key veterans Bruce Brown and Jeff Green in free agency following the franchise's first NBA title last summer, general manager Calvin Booth's options to restock the team were limited by new rules in the collective bargaining agreement that make it harder for high-priced teams such as the Nuggets to keep their core intact and also acquire veteran free agents.

Denver's starting five made a combined $151.6 million this season, well over the $136 million salary cap before even accounting for the rest of the roster. So, instead of restocking with experienced veterans, the Nuggets decided to give minutes to young players such as Christian Braun and Peyton Watson while working in rookies Julian Strawther, Jalen Pickett and Hunter Tyson.

Meanwhile, all their pursuers got better, mainly through trades and free agency signings. Nine of the top 10 teams in the Western Conference won more games this season than they did a year ago, including the Nuggets, who tied a franchise record with 57 wins, four more than they had a year ago, but still slipped from the No. 1 seed to the No. 2.

Braun came on strong down the stretch and was a key player off the bench in the playoffs. Watson's defensive prowess led to spectacular stretches but he didn't earn Malone's trust enough to be part of the playoff rotation.

Veterans Justin Holliday, Reggie Jackson and DeAndre Jordan got postseason cameos while Strawther, Pickett and Hunter logged meager minutes against Minnesota.

The biggest difference in the series was Minnesota's superior bench featuring Sixth Man of the Year Naz Reid along with Kyle Anderson and Nickeil Alexander-Walker.

Denver's starters outscored Minnesota's starters (565-551) in the series, but Minnesota's reserves outscored Denver's by a whopping 50 points—168-118.

The Nuggets simply couldn't buck the trend of the NBA producing a new champion every year since 2019. Being the hunted, Aaron Gordon noted, "is exhausting," and Jokic worked so many taxing minutes against the Wolves' three-center rotation that he mused about cloning himself.

Jokic said he'll have to think long and hard about suiting up for Serbia at the Paris Olympics this summer. But Murray, who dealt with knee, calf, ankle, shin and elbow injuries this season, missing 23 games, said he'll suit up for Team Canada.

Beyond that, Murray is already looking at chasing the NBA title again next season.

"It's back to being the hunter," he said.

Harry, 4 pitchers lead SBL standings

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Slugger Harry Nakamura and four pitchers lead the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL individual rankings as of May 16.

Nakamura of first place Bandits is almost perfect at the plate as he is 6 for 8 for the highest batting average of .750.

The Royals' Marvin Ngeskebei is right behind with five hits from seven at-bats for a .714 average.

The Bears' Dennis Cabrera rounds out the Top 3 with a batting average of .625 from five hits in eight plate appearances.

In other batting categories, Auriel Mendiola, Franko Nakamura, Lamarc Iguel, Pat Tenorio Jr., and Poland Masaharu have the most runs scored with eight each. Jon Wilson and Thomas Reyes have seven each.

NEXT LEVEL MEDIA CNMI

Bandits' Harry Nakamura reaches home safely during one of their games in the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field. As of May 16, he is atop the batting standings with his average of .750.

Four players—Anthony Dizon, Harry, Larson Sibetang, and Mario Salas—have the most doubles at two each.

In the triples category, Derrence Diaz, Kaipo Dikito, Nico Martin, Tenorio Jr., and Travis Malwebug have hit one each so far.

Ben Flores, Dennis Cabrera, Eli Aughenbaugh, and Tony Tenorio lead the home runs category with a homer each.

In the RBIs category, Byron Kaipat, Nokki Saralu, Tenorio Jr., and Tony Tenorio has six, while Alden Ngeskebei and Salas have five each.

On the bump, four pitchers boast a 0 earned run average and 0 earned runs.

Jose Lizama Jr. has a 0 ERA in one game and 6.1 innings pitched; 0 ER, gave up just three hits, and has a 1-0 record. K.J. Villagomez also has a 0 ERA in two games and 11 innings pitched, 0 ER, seven hits, and a two-win record.

Aaron Camacho also sports a 0 ERA in two games, nine innings pitched, 0 ER, four hits, and a 1-1 record, while A.J. Evangelista is also at 0 ERA, one game and seven innings pitched, 0 ER, three hits, and a 1-0 record.

The most strikeouts by a pitcher is a tie between 16 between Benji Palacios and Jylon Sablan. Camacho and Gloyd Martin have 15; Villagomez is at 14; J.J Takawo and Lizama Jr. have 11 each; and Austin Masga, Omupas Keahi, and Tyrese Camacho with nine Ks each.

In the team standings, the Bandits lead with three wins and no losses; the Falcons and Padres are right behind at two wins and no losses each; the Cardinals and Royals are at 3-1; Sandlot is at 2-1; the Braves are at an even 2-2; the D-9er's have a 1-1 record; the Bears and Blue Jays have won one and lost two; the White Sox have two losses; and Blue Shark and Natives have yet to win with four losses.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Run Saipan, including Edward Dela Cruz Jr., second right, poses with their Grotto 10K '24 sponsor AP Group and owner Perry Inos Jr. at Dream Play in the Town House Shopping Center.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Registration for Run Saipan's very own 10K race—the 3rd Annual Grotto 10K '24—is ongoing.

The 10K early morning race up at the scenic north of Saipan is set for Saturday, June 1, at 6am.

Check in time is from 5am to 5:45am, with a race brief at 5:50am.

The course will start at the Grotto in an out and back semi-flat course. Water stations will be provided at the start point, Bird Island Lookout, and the turnaround point, just past Kalabera Cave.

There are special discounts for Run Saipan members. Check with your Run Saipan group for the promo code.

Age divisions from the open to 65 and older will be awarded.

To register, click the link https://raceroster.com/events/2024/83515/grotto-10k-24.

Earlier this month, the AP Group LLC. donated $500 to Run Saipan and is the sponsor for the event. The company encompasses Dream Play, AP Energy, Tapped Out, AP Solutions, Napu Brewing Co., and NF-Express.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz said of their sponsorship, "A large thank you to AP Group and its companies for sponsoring this year's Grotto shirts. It's really great and a relief we finally have a sponsor for the 10K. We're trying to get a sponsor for each of our signature races that can cover our operations cost and this was a huge save thanks to them. Thank you AP Group so much."

CRUZ

From page 16

Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

The 17-year-old junior at Saipan Southern High School won both heats anew—like the previous six in the February, March, and April races—for another perfect 50 points. Vicente "Beng" Palacios came in second with his 44 points, while Henry Camacho Jr. rounded out third with his 38 points.

"I guess the one thing that was working for me was the drive to just have fun. The weather at the Cowtown motocross was very, very hot and dry. I want to dedicate this race to my family for supporting me while I train, practice, and race," he said.

Cruz went on to thank sponsors ERICCO Racing Team, Inas Kitchen, YCO Hardware True Value, 670 Rock Steady Shop, TurnKey Solutions, Chokechain, Pokka (Marpac), Marianas Native, Winners Hardware, and Pacific Line Construction. He also extended his thanks to the tent donation from House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Reps. Malcom Omar (Ind-Saipan), Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan), and Diego Camacho (D-Saipan).

In the Peewee TV Class, Ayven Sablan was the lone rider and took all the 50 points up for grabs.

Nakoa Torres, meanwhile, topped the Mini ATV Class with his 47 points followed by the 25 points of Austin Yumul.

In the Mini II, T.J. Ferrer won anew with a perfect score of 50 points. Calix Cruz was second with his 44 points.

Results of the other classes of the May 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

LA HUNN

From page 16

skills, and endurance."

Despite the straight-set loss, Lam said he was able to hang with the top seed and one of the better 17-year-old players in the world.

"I have the confidence to say that I could have played a much better match and won more games if I hadn't had my back injury. I will recover quickly and do more of physical conditioning to strengthen my body to prevent injuries," he said.

On finally getting his first ITF points, which equates to 5 points following the win against Devera, Lam said he couldn't be happier.

"It's awesome and I'm lucky to have the ITF points and I'm feeling so grateful. I'd like to thank to coach Jeff [Race], Oceania Tennis Federation, and ITF who have given me all these opportunities, my parents, and all the NMI friends who's been supporting me. Big thanks to them!"

Race said with the first ITF points under his belt, Lam should expect more ITF events in the future.

"I'm really happy for him. The benefit is that he'll be accepted into future ITF tournaments much more easily. He'll be ahead of everyone else who doesn't have points. Really though it's just the first step on a very long road to reaching his goals. It's kind of like just getting your foot in the door," he said.

Lam also partnered with fellow NMI netter June Yu in the doubles, but the duo lost to Canada's Daniel Dong and South Korea's Taewong Yoon, 2-6, 1-6. Yu also lost his opening round singles match against South Korea's Minsoo Kim, 1-6, 0-6.

Hannah Chae was the third CNMI netter to see action in Guam last week and lost both her singles and doubles matches. She dropped a 2-6, 2-6 contest against Japan's Misaki Sekido and succumbed with Amelie Helene Ruiz Terlaje of Guam, 0-6, 1-6, against Konatsu Fujii and Mutsumi Unemura of Japan.

REPEAT

From page 16

In the boys long jump event, DMS' Austin Camacho leaped his way to bronze with a mark of 4.52m. Gold went to Ryu with the farthest jump of 4.90m. Silver was TJHS' Cristofe Patio at 4.58m.

In the girls long jump, DMS' Shaenna Yamada's 3.69m jump landed her the bronze medal. TJHS' Ysabella Lenteja grabbed gold with a mark of 4.25m, and silver went to Chacha Ocean View Middle School's Pualani Dela Cruz at 3.74m.

Austin won silver in the 200m race with a time of 26.25 seconds followed by Peter for bronze at 26.53 seconds. Gold was Tagabuel once again at 25.97 seconds.

In the 4x100m relay, the DMS boys sprinted to gold with a time of 51.80 seconds. Silver was FMS at 52.24 seconds and bronze went to ACS at 54.41 seconds.

DMS' girls 4x100m relay team, on the other hand, settled for silver with their time of 1:00.52. Gold went to Saipan International School at 57 seconds, and bronze was Grace Christian School at 1:03.19.

In the 4x400m relay, the DMS boys claimed bronze with a time of 4:30.44. Gold was ACS at 4:26.17, and silver went to FMS at 4:27.52.

The girls 4x400m relay sprinted to silver after they clocked in at 5:21.25. SIS bagged gold with a time under five minutes at 4:51.47. Bronze was ACS with a time of 5:33.51.

In the boys shotput throw, DMS' Cesario Crisostomo's mark of 9.52m was good enough for silver. Teammate Kunni Cepeda bagged bronze at 9.38m, while gold was TJHS' Kymani Nabors at 11.25m.

DMS' Kayla Maag won silver in the girls shotput throw with a distance of 7.05m. Gold was TJHS' Ka'isa San Nicolas at 9.14m, while bronze went to Elim Luo at 7.03m.

Finally, in the discus throw, Peter claimed silver with a distance of 28.94m. Teammate Kaleb Reyes was right behind at 28.93m. Gold went to Nabors at 29.72m.

Co-coach and DMS teacher Simon Necesito said, "Being able to defend the title was definitely a shock for us as a team. The season was an interesting one as we didn't have much time to work with. We recently just finished girls' softball and boys' volleyball so we were essentially working with what we got. With only two weeks of practice our kids showed us that despite the challenges we continue to fight through."

When asked how they managed to win the title again, he said, "I think one thing that helps our team keep strong is we still make time to practice at the track at least three times a week."

"I want to take the time to thank Jeri Mae Tudela, Jerry Bahillo, and Emirina Chong for taking the time to help our students day in and day out. We want to thank our PTSA and SCAP for their continued support. We also would like to extend our appreciation to Northern Marianas Athletics for allowing us to have our team train so that our kids are familiar with each of the events," said Necesito.

The girls team championship results will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

Blue Jays beat White Sox behind Bo Bichette's 4 hits

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La Hunn gets first ITF points in Guam

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

La Hunn Lam goes for a backhand return while playing in the 2024 Citadel Guam World Tour last week at the Guam National Tennis Center in Dededo.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

The CNMI's tennis phenom La Hunn Lam garnered his first International Tennis Federation points after winning his opening round assignment last week in the 2024 Citadel Guam World Tour at the Guam National Tennis Center in Dededo.

The 14-year-old tennis prodigy got his first ITF points after beating Guam's Jeren Devera, 6-0, 6-0. He then lost in the second round against top seed Hikaru Takahashi of Japan, 0-6, 2-6.

"I played against the No. 1 seed and 17-year-old Japanese player that's ranked No. 343 in the second match of the main draw. I had around 13 deuces in the first game and seven deuces in the third game of the first set, but I just couldn't close the games. I need to improve my consistency, tactical

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Cruz continues dominance in Intermediate Class

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Four Marianas Racing Association races and four wins so far for Aric Cruz as he again dominated the Intermediate Class of the May 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race

See CRUZ on Page 15

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aric Cruz in action in the Intermediate Class of the May 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

Repeat for DMS boys team in athletics champs

LEIGH GASES

Champions Dandan Middle School boys athletics team, center, poses with silver medalists Agape Christian School, right, and bronze medalists Francisco M. Sablan Middle School during the awards ceremony of the 14U middle school division PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 championships last Saturday morning at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Dandan Middle School Tottots boys athletics team won the championship for the second year in a row in the 14U middle school division of the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 championships last Friday night and Saturday morning at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

The Tottots sported the most points at 111 for gold, followed by Agape Christian School for silver at 92 points, and bronze Francisco M. Sablan Middle School at 56 points.

Last Friday, DMS' Peter Camacho bagged the first gold in the javelin throw with a mark of 34.65m. Silver went to ACS' Daniel Yang at 30.60m, and bronze was Tinian Jr. High School's Jerdon Cruz at 28.56m.

Camacho also won bronze in the 100m sprints with his time of 13 seconds flat. Gold went to Mount Carmel School's Jayson Tagabuel at 12.76 seconds and silver was FMS' Changwhan Ryu at 12.77.

Camacho grabbed another bronze this time in the 400m race with a time of 1:02.20. Gold went to Yang at 58.22 seconds and silver was won by teammate Raffy Cai at 1:01.79.

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